







ILLUSTRATED

# Guide to the Nilgiris

WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF

**Ootacamund, Coonoor, Kotagiri, Wellington and other places of interest,  
with Map of the Coonoor-Ootacamund  
Railway extension.**

**Madras:**  
**HIGGINBOTHAM & CO.,**

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## PREFACE.



THIS book is issued to supply what we feel to be an obvious want. With better communications and readier means of reaching the hills, the Nilgiris are yearly becoming more sought out by invalids, holiday-makers and others desiring to escape from the heat of the plains. A guide or handbook to the hill stations is therefore greatly needed. The present book pretends to be no more than a compilation of interesting facts, figures and general information contained in a multitude of books dealing with these hills. Every attempt has been made to bring the information up to date and to

arrange it in a concise and handy manner ; but so rapidly do events march now-a-days, that it is more than possible that some of the matter contained in it may be already out of date. It is hoped, however, that, such as it is, it will be found useful to all, and that it will induce many to pay a visit to these hills and learn at first hand the charms of one of the finest and most salubrious hill regions in India.

H. & Co.

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# A GUIDE TO THE NILGIRIS.

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## CHAPTER I.

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### GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

THE Nilgiris, or Blue Mountains, are a triangular mass of hills formed by the converging of the Eastern and Western Ghauts, the respective boundaries of that great triangular tableland, the Decan, which rests on the north on the Vindhya Hills. They now form a District of the Madras Presidency, the headquarters of which is Ootacamund, which is also the summer seat of the Madras Government. The District is surrounded on the south-east, east and north-east by the Coimbatore District, on the west by the Malabar District and on the north by Mysore. Its length from east to west is about 40 miles and its extreme breadth about 29 miles. These hills were first explored in the year 1814 by Messrs. Keys and MacMahon of the Madras Survey Department, and, in the "Manual of the Nilgiri District," will be found an interesting

topographical description of the hills by Mr. Keys. In 1820, Mr. John Sullivan, Collector of Coimbatore, called the attention of the Government of Madras to these hills as a sanitarium for Europeans. From an old directory to these hills, published nearly 35 years ago, I learn that Mr. Sullivan was induced by some Badagas (one of the tribes inhabiting these hills) to pay a visit to them, as he would find ice of natural formation there. In the same year, Lieutenant Evan Macpherson, Superintendent of the Nilgiri Roads, submitted to Mr. Sullivan, a report on the climate of this lofty region, the capabilities and resources of the country and its adaptability as a sanitarium for Europeans. This report was evidently submitted to the Government of Madras, for, in the following year, Captain S. B. Ward, Deputy Surveyor-General made a survey and submitted an interesting Geographical and Statistical Memoir which gives perhaps the fullest and most reliable of the early descriptions of these hills. "The climate of these mountains" he said, "is perhaps the finest known between the tropics; during December, January and February it is extremely cold \* \* \* \* but during the other nine months it is delightful the whole day; in the morn-

ing it is below  $50^{\circ}$ , never above  $60^{\circ}$ , nor in the hottest day in this interval does it ever rise above  $75^{\circ}$ ." It is not possible, nor perhaps desirable, in a publication of this sort to trace the successive stages of development which resulted in these "Delectable Mountains" becoming the Paradise of South India. Suffice it to say that to-day Ootacamund is the summer headquarters of the Government of Madras,\* the permanent headquarters of the Madras Army and a number of offices appertaining thereto; a beautiful hill station which among many other characteristics possesses that of being the most elevated municipal town in India, and the permanent residence of a large number of Europeans of all classes who have voluntarily retired there or at Coonoor in preference to going Home. The Military station of Wellington, near Coonoor, is the principal convalescent depôt for British troops in the Madras Command; it is permanently garrisoned by the headquarters wing of a British Infantry Regiment, and it is also the headquarters of the General Officer Commanding the Southern District. The other stations of interest from a visitor's point of view are Coonoor and Kotagiri.

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\* NOTE.—See page 34.

All these differ considerably in altitude and aspect, and, therefore, in climatic conditions ; but these however, will be dealt with later on.

A delightful climate, though it means much to the jaded worker in the plains who seeks the cool reviving atmosphere of the mountain tops, is, after all, not everything ; nor is this all that these hills offer. Beautiful scenery and healthiness of surroundings are very essential *desiderata*, and these too are to be had in full measure.

As to scenery, we doubt whether there is any tract of similar size in India which offers such varied prospects as do these beautiful hills. From the dense magnificence of the tropical forests of the lower hills to the quiet beauty of the almost English landscape of the uplands it is all there, bewildering in its variety, but always charming. In this connection we cannot do better than follow the late Mr. H. B. Grigg, C.I.E., and quote the following from Breeks' " Nilgiris " as the most effective and truthful description of the peculiar features of the Nilgiri scenery :—" The interior of the plateau consists chiefly of grassy undulating hills divided by narrow valleys, which invariably contain a stream or a swamp. In the hollows of the hill-

sides nestle small beautiful woods locally known as *sholas*. It is seldom that so much variety of beauty is found in so small a compass. From the bleak heights of the Kundas, with their storm-beaten moss-hung woods and rank coarse grass to the springy turf and many coloured *sholas* of Ootacamund and the tropical vegetation of the western slopes, every five or ten miles brings the traveller to a new climate and new scenery. Even on the summit of the plateau the rainfall varies with each different aspect, and, ranging from about 30 inches to 150 or more, produces a corresponding change of vegetation. It is however, the views over the edges of the tableland that are most singular and striking, from the extreme abruptness of the descent. Let a visitor take a short ride in almost any direction, from almost any part of the plateau, and passing along shady English-looking lanes, sheltered by thickets of blackberry and wild rose, across bare breezy downs, sometimes dotted with twisted crimson flowering rhododendron trees, and intersected by swampy valleys, where buffaloes wade and wallow, through dense woods carpeted with rare and beautiful ferns and gorgeous in spring tints, beside which the colouring of an English autumn is faint

and dull, by native villages with their patches of cultivation and magnificent jungle trees, he will find himself on some ridge a promontory looking straight down from 4,000 to 6,000 feet, on a scene that changes like the figures in a kaleidoscope. In the morning a sea of clouds lies at his feet and gradually rises round him. In the afternoon this has cleared away, and reveals, perhaps, a vast crimson plain, veined by dark lines of wood, dotted with isolated hummocks like giant ant-hills, and terminating in faint blue lines of mountains, a tumbled mass of hills and valleys, a perfect dissolving view, for the eye has hardly traced the outline of some rocky ridge, glowing red in the sunlight, before a blue cloud-shadow blots it out and a fresh series of crests and ravines starts into sight beyond. Broken peaks hung with woods frame the picture, and on all sides lies tropical sunlight intensified by the keen mountain air."

To those who have known these hills as long as some of the oldest European residents, great changes have been seen in the aspect both of the plateau and the slopes, due to a number of causes, among which are the wide extension of cultivation by the hill-tribes of cereals and other crops, the increase







in planting operations and, lastly to the numerous plantations of Australian and other exotic trees, especially in the neighbourhood of the large stations. Those who have not seen the change actually taking place under their eyes, may form a very good idea of the aspect then and now by taking up some old illustration—photograph or print—of scenes on the Nilgiris and comparing some familiar spot as it now is with its aspect as it was, say, half a century ago. The late Sir Richard Burton during the early days of his service in India made a journey from Bombay by sea down the West Coast to Calicut, finding his way thence to Ootacamund. The narrative of this journey was published under the title of “Goa and the Blue Mountains.” We merely refer to it here because it contains some coloured plates of Ootacamund which illustrate the preceding remarks. Any old photograph of 20 or 30 years ago will do the same, but in a lesser degree. To the lover of the scenery peculiar to the hills the destruction of the indigenous *sholas* has been an irreparable loss; but it has been in some measure compensated for by the variety afforded by the rich green of the tea and coffee bushes. The forests of blue gums and the avenues of Australian

blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*). With regard to the blue gum, a very utilitarian thought will obtrude, and that is that the price of fuel is now cheap, a great consideration in a place where fires are necessary almost all the year round. As to the healthiness of these hills, experience shows that the epidemics so dreaded in the plains are almost practically non-existent in these hills; but when they have, on rare occasions, appeared, it has been the fault of man entirely. The two most recent epidemics that have visited Ootacamund in recent years have been the typhoid epidemic among Europeans in 1898 and the plague epidemic in 1903. Enquiries into the causes of both led to the conclusion that it is in spite of the general healthiness of the place that such epidemics take place. Both Ootacamund and Coonoor recognise too well how much their welfare depends upon a good sanitary reputation to be deliberately careless in this respect.

Before closing this chapter, I may briefly summarise the other many advantages of a visit to these hills, and these in the main apply to Ootacamund, which in this respect may fully be termed the "Queen of Indian Hill-Stations." From the sportsman's point of view it is a paradise. Where

else in India will be found the combination such as is here offered. The Shikari gets shooting of every variety either on these hills or within easy reach in the forests of Coimbatore, Mysore and the Wynaad; the racing man has the Wellington and Ootacamund Races in the beginning of the season, Gymkhana Races all through the season and the Hunt Races later; the hunting man has hunting two and sometimes three times a week over the finest galloping country afforded by the Downs—and this, it must be said, attracts to Ootacamund visitors from far afield who, but for it, might visit stations more easily accessible in their own Presidencies. Finally the Gymkhana Club gives opportunities to the followers of almost every single branch of sport followed by the Englishman in India. The social life of Ootacamund is perhaps second only to that of Simla, due in a large measure to the easy accessibility of the place, and to its being for a certain period during the season the centre of the social life of places so widely separated as Hyderabad, Madras and Bangalore to say nothing of that permanently located in the place. These remarks apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to Coonoor and Wellington, because both are within easy reach

of Ootacamund and will be more so when the Railway is extended to Ootacamund. One unquestionable advantage Ootacamund certainly has and that is that every one who possesses a carriage is at liberty to drive it ; so that the “gigmanity” of Ootacamund is not confined, like it is at Simla, to the Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief, because there are not enough driving roads for all to use with comfort and convenience.

## CHAPTER II.

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### ACCESSIBILITY OF THE NILGIRIS.

WHEN the Nilgiris were discovered and for many years afterwards, except for a very limited number, they were a *terra incognita*, and there was little use in painting their beauties in purple paragraphs of description, for the average man had not the leisure or the money to spend on a journey three-quarters across the Peninsula to get there. But in this, as in other matters, we have been keeping pace with the rest of India. We can remember a day when the traveller to Darjeeling took from four days to a week to get there, by train, steamer, *dāk gharry* and palanquin or pony; we can remember the time when the visitor to Simla left the Railway at Umballa and by *dāk gharry* and tonga did the long intervening stages to the "hill Capua," and there are those in this Presidency who are not so very old who remember the time when the train discharged them at Pothanur and left ,

them, by devious means and strange, to find their way up to the hills. A railway has for many years been running into the heart of Darjeeling; for the first time this year the Viceroy and the Government of India have travelled from Kalka to Simla by train. A railway from Mettapolliem, the present terminus of the hill branch of the Madras Railway to Coonoor has been in existence and working for some years now, and it will not be long before the traveller will be able to travel by railway right into Ootacamund. The survey of the extension is an accomplished fact and construction has at last been sanctioned. It will be seen, therefore, that in this respect too Ootacamund and her sister hill-stations compare favourably with the better known stations in Upper India and there is daily evidence of their ever-increasing popularity. And this is due not only to the opening of the Nilgiri Railway; but to the general activity in railway construction in recent years which has placed Madras in direct railway communication with all other parts of India and Ceylon. The pessimistic and old-fashioned pretend to see in this an ominous threat to the beauty and well-being of both Ootacamund and Coonoor, arguing that to

make it too easy of access will only result in both places being over-crowded and built over to the detriment of their beauty and their sanitation. We doubt, however, if this will take place to any very great extent; though it will certainly result in the expansion of both stations. One reason why Ootacamund and Coonoor will not follow the example of Simla and Darjeeling—two well-known examples of expansion and overcrowding—is the peculiarly fortunate position of the Madras Presidency in having more than one hill sanitarium within easy reach of Madras, to say nothing of the salubrious and very pleasant station of Bangalore. Darjeeling takes the bulk of the summer visitors from Bengal; Simla, with the attractions of a Viceregal Court, draws visitors from every Province, to say nothing of the tremendous overcrowding due to the *entourage* of the Government of India, the Punjaub Government and the headquarters of the Indian Army. The European population of the Madras Presidency who desire to visit the hills have the choice of no less than five stations to go to namely Ootacamund, Coonoor, Kotagiri, Yercaud or Kodaikanal. Each has supreme advantages in the eyes of its advocates, and hence there is plenty of elbow-room in all.



The railway to Coonoor has done much to make easy and pleasant the journey to the hills and when, within the next few years, it is extended to Ootacamund, these advantages will be increased. Just now it is possible for a traveller to book himself and his luggage from any station in India direct to Coonoor; but it is not policy always to do so. Passenger traffic on the Nilgiri Hill Railway is carried at a much higher rate than on the ordinary Indian Railways, and the scale of rates varies according as the journey is up or down the Ghaut. Many travelling alone and unhampered by children find it distinctly advantageous to take tickets—first- or second-class, as the case may be—only as far as Mettapolliem and then travel up the Ghaut on the very much cheaper third-class carriages, and the same coming down. The Nilgiri Railway, like so many other ventures in India, had a chequered career before it emerged into a state of working efficiency. The preliminary survey and enquiry was made in 1875, and in 1880 a Company was formed and a concession obtained from the Government to construct a Railway on the Rigngenbach system. The question of raising the necessary capital caused a protracted delay and it was not

until 1889 that the matter was settled. When it came to constructing the line, the Riggensbach system of a short direct line with a steep gradient was dropped in favour of a longer and more substantial line, and in 1891 the present route was surveyed, and in August of the same year Lord Wenlock, the then Governor of Madras, inaugurated the work of construction by blasting a rock on the Coonoor Ghaut Road. Mr. R. Woolley, the concessionaire of the original Nilgiri Railway Co., died in 1895 and much delay was caused by the Company having to go into liquidation. The concession, however, was taken over by a new Company in London and construction was proceeded with and the Railway to Coonoor was finished and opened for traffic in 1899. The line is metre gauge and about  $16\frac{3}{4}$  miles in length, practically level for the first five miles from Mettapolliem to Kullar, after which it begins to climb at a gradient which varies from 1 in 15 to 1 in  $12\frac{1}{2}$  when the rack rail comes into use. There are nine tunnels on the line, the longest being about 317 feet in length. Construction expenses were very heavy, because, in addition to these tunnels there is a big bridge over the Bhowani River, the happy fishing ground of the angler,

together with 26 other bridges and very heavy rock cuttings. The journey from Mettapolliem takes about three hours, almost the same as by tonga ; but the journey, if the trains are not too crowded, is much more comfortable. The route is very different to the old tonga route by what is called the new Ghât Road which the railway crosses at various points. From the railway carriage windows one gets an even better view of the scenery than while travelling by tonga, and one never gets the terrible sensations that keep the stranger's nerves on the stretch the first time he travels over the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. The railway at present runs into a pretty little terminal station at Coonoor. Travelers going further to Ootacamund do the intervening 11 miles or so by tonga, or make such other arrangements that suit them best.

Before the days of the railway, access to these hills was gained by six passes or Ghauts which generally followed, though far from closely, the tracks which were in existence long before the Europeans visited the hills. Of these six Ghauts, two, *viz.* the Coonoor and Kotagiri are on the east or south-east angle of the plateau and terminate at Mettapolliem. At the north-west and south-west angles

of the plateau are the Gudalur and Sispara Ghauts, the former communicating with Wynaad, the latter the direct route to Calicut. Of these passes the Coonoor, (new) the Kotagiri, Gudalur and Segur Ghâts are open to wheeled traffic. The Coonoor new Ghât road used to carry all the tonga and the cart traffic in pre-railway days and is still the main cart road to Coonoor and beyond. It is a beautiful road, exceedingly well kept, and is still used in case of a breakdown on the railway, which is not at all unfrequent during the heavy rains of the North-east Monsoon, which is, *par excellence*, the monsoon at Coonoor. The adventurous traveller who misses his train at Coonoor can easily cycle down this Ghât and catch it at Mettapolliem. This road was constructed in 1871 by Lieutenant (afterwards Colonel) Law to replace the old Ghât road, which runs up the same valley, but was constructed on a very faulty alignment. The latter is used now for carrying much of the traffic for the coffee and tea estates on the Coonoor slope of the Nilgiris. The scenery on both these ascents are very striking, "the roads winding through deep ravines and under lofty crags, whilst far below there rushes the Coonoor river forming beautiful cascades in its

downward course. On the opposite side stands the Hulikul Drug—a grand bluff wonderfully diversified with scarp and crag, relieved with bright green foliage in each cleft or hollow, whilst its base is covered with rich tropical forest, gradually passing into stretches of waving bamboo.’’ Much of the forest above the elevation of 3,000 or 4,000 feet has been removed to give place to the coffee and tea estates, and it is seldom one sees a prettier sight than to come up this Ghât when the coffee bushes are in bloom.

There are also two Kotagiri Ghauts—the old and the new. The former was constructed in 1822 by a corps of Pioneers and led to the early sanitarium of Dimhatti above Kotagiri. It was much used by persons visiting the hills from the Southern and Eastern Districts of the Presidency, but was abandoned after the opening of the Coonoor Ghât. The new Ghât was constructed in 1872, but is now little used, except for traffic in connection with the planters’ estates at Kotagiri.

The Segur Ghât has its head four miles distant from Ootacamund and is a very short Ghât, being only  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length. About half way down is the picturesque waterfall of Kulhatti. This Ghât con-

nects Mysore, the capital of the State of that name, with Ootacamund and is practically the route taken by the Mysore Royal Family and officials of the State when they make their short exodus to the hills, pending the breaking of the monsoon on the Mysore plateau. It was the route recently taken by Lord Curzon who paid a flying visit to Ootacamund after installing the young Maharajah of Mysore on the *guddi*.

The Gudalur Ghât is so named from the village of Gudalur not far from its base. The new Ghât was constructed in the year 1868. From its crest at Nedduwattam, near the Government Cinchona Factory and plantations, to its base the distance is eight miles and from thence to Gudalur it is three miles. This is the direct route to the planting districts of the Wynaad. There are two other Ghâts, the Melur or Sundaputte and the Talpoya Pass, but these have either been so long abandoned by travellers or have never been used except by the hillmen, that they call for no description. There remains, therefore, only the Sispara Ghât connecting Ootacamund with Calicut. This was completed in 1832 and was for a long time the *tappal* route between the Nilgiris and the West Coast. It is

the longest road connecting with Ootacamund, its total length being over 103 miles. The stages on the road are Avalanche, Sisparah, Walakad, Sholakal, Wandur, Juddumana, Areakad and Calicut. A good description of the road will be found in Murray's "Handbook for Madras." The view from the head of the pass with the tower-like Sispara rock on the right is perhaps the grandest on the hills.

Like all mountain ranges in India, the Nilgiris have a malarial belt at their base in the jungle-clad tract which extends to a height of from 2,000 to 3,500 feet and sportsmen and others should be very careful how they visit these tracts, and on no account should they remain in them for any length of time.

## CHAPTER III.

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### OOTACAMUND.

Ootacamund, the principal station on the Nilgiris, is about 7,400 feet above the level of the sea. It is situated almost in the centre of the Nilgiri Range, and from its elevation it is the coldest of the stations. It is located in an extensive valley and is enclosed on all sides, but the west by a lofty range of hills. In its west centre an artificial but very picturesque lake has been formed by throwing a dam across the narrow outlet of the valley. This lake used to be much larger, extending at one time as a marsh into a portion of the present Hobart Park and Gymkhana ground. In recent years, however, the portion east of the Willow Bund has been reclaimed, very much to the improvement of the Gymkhana ground which now contains one of the nicest hill race-courses in India.

The population of the town, according to the last Census, is 18,596; but is considerably more during



the six months, April to September, when the Government and the bulk of the visitors are on the hills.

The affairs of the town are administered by the Ootacamund Municipality, which works under the District Municipalities Act. Owing, however, to the fact that the town is the summer headquarters of the Madras Government, the Municipality gets more financial help from Government than any other town in the Presidency, Madras not even excepted. The result is that though not a wealthy Municipality, it can nearly always count upon funds for necessary improvements to keep the town attractive, beautiful and healthy, three primary considerations in a health resort. At the head of the Municipality is a paid Chairman, who has also the support and advice of the Collector of the District and other official and non-official members.

The sanitary condition of the town, it must be confessed, is defective, and during the three-quarters of a century that the town has been occupied, this has been proved again and again. This is due to a multitude of causes, the chief of which was the haphazard and unchecked way the town was allowed to grow for a great number of years. It may tend to picturesqueness and beauty to have houses and





cottages nestling away among the hill-sides, remote from the main thoroughfares of the town and centres of population ; but in course of time this makes very difficult the sanitary problem of keeping the town clean. It was comparatively an easy thing to provide a drainage system for the native town built on the lowest level with all the houses located together. It is impossible however to provide a drainage system for the rest of the town. It often puzzles one to think how the sewage and waste of houses situated on the higher slopes is disposed off. Commonsense suggests that it naturally gravitates downward till it reaches the level of natural drainage and is so disposed off ; but this entails the consequence that the process of gravitation must be extremely uncomfortable in an increasing ratio to those living below. An idea of what is meant may perhaps be illustrated by a story which if *non vero* is *ben trovato*. It relates to a small hill-station in Northern India in which the following primitive method of scavenging obtained. Like the Jews of old, each householder was responsible for the

- cleanliness of his own door-step, *i.e.*, his own premises, and this he obtained by collecting the rubbish and heaving it down the hill-side. That

it added to the responsibilities of the householder living below him was no concern of his. What the feelings were of the man who lived at the foot of the slope and had to get rid of an accumulated hill-side of rubbish can be better imagined than described. That this might have been the condition of Ootacamund once, it is possible to conceive ; but at present the conservancy of the town is managed by the Municipality on much the same lines as elsewhere. Again, where you have natives congregating together in congeries of dwellings called parcherries, agrapharams, or anything else you like, you must have insanitary conditions, and the danger is immeasurably more in a cold hill-station where the temptation to huddle more closely together for warmth in uncleanly surroundings is proportionately greater. There has been more than one plague spot of this kind in Ootacamund for many generations now. Their existence was known, but the necessity for getting rid of them was emphasised by the plague epidemic last year. The sites have now been acquired and cleared of their insanitary dwellings and will be laid out with model dwellings. Other minor sanitary defects are the absence of supervision regarding certain food

supplies such as milk, etc., the necessity for which was pointed out during the typhoid epidemic of 1898. It says much for the natural salubrity of the climate, therefore, that the station is, as a rule, free from epidemic diseases. The town is at present supplied with water from two sources, the Marlimund Reservoir and the Dodabetta Reservoir, the water being carried by pipes to the various parts of the station. Properly boiled and filtered, the water from both systems is comparatively good ; but without these precautions both are open to suspicion, Marlimund water more than the other, because its catchment area lies in the midst of a large grazing ground and tea estate. The Dodabetta supply is liable to contain vegetable impurities. Besides the pipe supply there are a number of springs and wells, which being on private property are protected, from which excellent water may be obtained. In the old days the chief water supplies of Ootacamund were brought in by open channels from tolerably pure sources situated at considerable distances from the centre of the station ; but the water in such channels was always open to pollution. One of the last relics of this old water supply system has recently disappeared. Those who have

previously visited Ootacamund will remember the "Aqueduct," a familiar land-mark at the entrance to the town. It was used, in the days of the open channel supply system, to carry the water from the Dodabetta side of the station to the Elk Hill over the gorge through which the Coonoor Road passes. After being disused for many years, it suddenly collapsed.

Before dealing with the physical aspects of the town, a word or two may be said regarding its climate. The climate of Ootacamund for the greater portion of the year is decidedly salubrious, the air is pure and bracing and has a sensible effect in exhilarating the spirits and increasing the disposition to exercise. Inconvenience is seldom experienced under great or unusual exertion, and languor or lassitude are seldom felt as in the sultry plains of India. The prevailing winds are the south-west and north-east ; owing, however, to the open aspect of the country to the west and south-west, the South-west Monsoon breaks with greater fury over Ootacamund than any other station on the plateau. This period is from the beginning of June till the beginning of October when much rain falls and the atmosphere is saturated with moisture. The hills

become covered with luxuriant grass, the forests burgeon into fresh foliage, and everything looks green and fresh and surpassingly beautiful, and during the brief breaks that occur, usually in August and September, this portion of the District is seen at its best. Notwithstanding the rain and dampness, this season is usually considered the most salubrious, and those Europeans who by long residence and experience are entitled to an opinion, prefer the rainy season to any other.

The North-east Monsoon begins about the middle of October and is ushered in by about three weeks of rain, after which the cold season sets in with a very clear sky, very hot sun, but cold and frosty nights, with ice and hoar frost forming in the hollows. From the beginning of the year until the end of April, dry north-easterly breezes prevail and this is for the most trying season of the year for all who are not in robust health. The months of April and May are the hottest in the year; but the thermometer at Ootacamund even in these months seldom rises above 70° in the shade. From the time the heavy rains set in, in the early part of June, there is an improvement in the public health. It is proof of the temperate nature of the climate



that all the European vegetables and many of the European fruits and flowers grow on these hills almost as well as they do in England. The market gardens on the Kodapamund slope are marvels of what the ingenuity and thrift of the Canarese market gardeners are able to do in the matter of reclaiming and utilising every available inch of space by terracing the slopes. The Nilgiri Agri-Horticultural Society, which will be referred to later on, has done much by inducing competition to improve the conditions of this and other forms of agriculture on the Hills.

The high elevation of Ootacamund and the rapidity with which the ascent is made, results in a visitor suddenly finding himself transported from almost tropical heat to a climate the mean temperature of which reaches 56° Fahrenheit or less. It is well, therefore, to be prepared in the matter of clothing that one is wearing for the very sudden changes. Adults can with safety make the necessary changes in their attire at Coonoor, where the change in temperature is first sensibly felt; but with children it is safer to put in warm under-clothing before the ascent of the Ghât is made. In the case of invalids and very young children, the doctors frequently

advise a halt being made at Coonoor to get, in a measure, acclimatised before going into the severer climate and more rarified atmosphere of Ootacamund. As already stated, the cold moist atmosphere of Ootacamund during the monsoon is not prejudicial to the health of Europeans, provided always that sufficient precautions are taken in adapting one's clothing to the weather condition. A sufficiency of boots, warm stockings and clothing is necessary to provide an immediate change on returning home after being caught in the rain. If this precaution is taken exposure to the rain here, as in other hill-stations in India, seldom does harm ; but that is no reason why a thoroughly good and serviceable waterproof should not be worn when encountering wet weather. Shortness of breath, headaches, sleeplessness, etc., are symptoms that distress visitors on their first arrival. They are due to the highly rarified state of the atmosphere and pass away in a little while. Above all, it should never be forgotten that the low temperature of Ootacamund is due to altitude and not latitude, and that it is almost as fatal to expose oneself to the sun in Ootacamund, as on the plains, without a proper covering for the head. •

## CHAPTER IV.

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### PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, Etc.

#### THE SECRETARIAT AND COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Ootacamund is the summer headquarters of the Madras Government, whose stay on the hills usually lasts from early in April till the middle of October. The Council Chamber and the Secretariat are well and picturesquely located at Stonehouse, a small spur of the Dodabetta range at the entrance of Ootacamund. The site was previously occupied by the Lawrence Asylum, but when the Madras Government decided to follow the example set by Lord Lawrence and have an annual "exodus" from the plains, it became necessary to find a location for its Secretariat. The fine Stonehouse property was acquired, the pupils of the Lawrence Asylum being removed to the buildings at Lovedale. "Stonehouse" was originally the property of Mr. John Sullivan, the "discoverer and founder of Ootacamund," and was built by him to demonstrate his faith in the Hills as a sanitarium for Europeans.

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The Secretariat and the Council Chamber are fine buildings and the hill on which they are situated is conserved as a Park and is under the care of the Superintendent of Government Gardens. Situated on the hill is a number of cottages provided by the Government as residences for the native clerks and others, whom the exodus brings up in the train of the Government to swell the summer population of the town

#### GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Before Ootacamund became the virtual summer capital of the Presidency, it was periodically visited by the Governors of Madras for a few months to escape the trying hot weather of Madras. There was then no permanent official residence for the Governor, each of whom leased a house for himself for the period of his stay on the hills, and this continued for some time after the Government had begun to hold the regular summer session on the hills. The inconvenience of this was soon felt, and it became necessary to provide a permanent Government House at Ootacamund. The Norwood property, near the Government Botanical Gardens, was acquired and the main building by extensive

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structural alterations was converted into Government House. It is a large roomy and comfortable residence which successive Governors have each done something to improve; but absolutely devoid of any architectural pretensions. It is situated in close proximity to the Government Gardens, into which the well-kept grounds and gardens gradually merge, as the drive to Government House is through the beautiful gardens, at the gate lodges of which are kept the Visitors' Books, etc., for the convenience of those paying formal calls. Government House is the centre of the social life of Ootacamund, and the functions—state and private—held there are the best of their kind. The accommodation for these purposes has in recent years been much improved by the provision of a handsome and commodious ball-room. The grounds and premises are extensive and contain a number of other residences for the use of the Staff

#### THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

If Ootacamund has become the summer headquarters of the Madras Government, it has also become the permanent headquarters of the Madras Army, and the Lieutenant-General Commanding,

as the Commander-in-Chief is now called. The days when Madras was the headquarters of its Army and the Commander-in-Chief's orders issued from Choultry Plain are now only a matter of history, and the connection of Madras with the headquarters of its Army is preserved in the road in Egmore eponymously termed Commander-in-Chief's Road. There was a time, within the memory of most of us, when the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army made some attempt to secure for the Presidency town some semblance of its former importance as the chief seat of the Civil and Military administration of the Presidency—even after the headquarters had virtually been transferred to Ootacamund—by coming to Madras in the cold season and from a camp on the Fort Glacis carrying on the administration of the Madras Army. With the abolition of the Commanders-in-Chief of the Presidential Armies, even this has been abolished and the Madras Army is now entirely administered from the Army Headquarters at Ootacamund which are situated on Mount Stuart overlooking Charing Cross. The substantive appointment of Lieutenant-General Commanding the Madras Forces is at present held by Sir Charles Egerton; but owing to the exigencies



of active service in Somaliland, Major-General Sir George Pretyman is acting.

[The foregoing was written before the recent change abolishing the Madras Command was made, and constituting Secunderabad the headquarters of a Division with jurisdiction over the Brigades into which the historic Madras Army has now been split up. The change was very quietly made and took almost every body not in the secret by surprise. It is part and parcel of a comprehensive scheme by Lord Kitchener for making more effective the Army in India and keeping it almost permanently mobilised for active service. Under the new conditions the title of Lieutenant-General Commanding the Madras Forces has been abolished. The highest Military authority in South India now is the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Ninth (Secunderabad) Division and the Staff has been withdrawn from Ootacamund to Secunderabad. The Army Head-quarters on Mount Stuart will still remain in the possession of the Military Department, and will be used by the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Secunderabad Division as a Camp Office, during his Summer residence on these hills.] „

Ootacamund, though now a purely Civil Station,

was originally occupied as a Military Station and was for a long time administered as a Cantonment and Military Bazaar. In this connection we may mention that until comparatively recently the Military Department acknowledged their tenancy under the Todas as lords of the soil by a small payment annually. Within the last decade, certainly, it was discovered that this meaningless payment had continued for years, when it was summarily discontinued.

#### THE DISTRICT OFFICES.

In the neighbourhood of the Army Headquarters and on a small plateau just above it are situated the Nilgiri District Offices—or Collector's Cutcherry, the District Magistrate's and the other Courts. The Sub-Judge's Court was originally occupied by the Breeks' Memorial School. The District Cutcherry is very centrally situated and its frontage is laid out with a garden, which, like the other public gardens on these hills, is under the care of the Superintendent of Government Gardens. The Post and Telegraph Offices are also situated here in an attractive chalet-like building. All information regarding the posting of letters, the number of

local and other deliveries and all such matters can be ascertained at the Post Office. The Telegraph Office during the season is raised to the status of a first-class office. Both Post and Telegraph Offices maintain registers of residents and their addresses which are more or less kept up to date.

#### THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE.

The only other public office of any importance, is that of the Municipality, which is situated on the slope of the same hill, over-looking the Market and the Gymkhana ground. The Municipal administration of Ootacamund has been dealt with elsewhere, and all that remains to be said here is that the visitor will do well to remember that in Ootacamund he renders himself liable to be taxed for each servant that he brings with him. The tax, like all taxes of this kind, is the cause of some dissatisfaction; but a little consideration will show that it is a reasonable impost on a floating population from whom the Municipality derives no other return for the varied services it has to perform for them.

#### THE OOTACAMUND CLUB.

This institution ranks, with the Madras Club and the U. C. S. Club at Bangalore, as one of the lead-

ing Clubs in the Presidency. It is admirably situated in the heart of the European residential quarter of Ootacamund at the base of the hill adjoining that on which St. Stephen's Church is situated. Membership is open to the Civil and Military Officers of the Crown and to other gentlemen in Society. The Club is admirably found internally with all comforts and conveniences usual in such institutions and there attached to it a limited number of residential chambers convenient for bachelors and others on short visit to the hills. Very recently the Ootacamund Club has followed in the steps of the other leading Clubs in South India, and has, with restrictions, made provision for ladies within the precincts of the Club. The Ladies' Annexe just opened has proved a very convenient meeting ground for the ladies of the families of Club members. Here they meet and amuse themselves far more comfortably in the evening before dinner, than was possible at the Gymkhana, which however is still the resort of those ladies who are not so fortunate as to possess a male member of the family, who is also a member of the Club. In the past the Club, on very special occasions, such as the Hunt Breakfast, or the Annual Bachelors' Ball, opened its portals to

lady guests. The Hunt Breakfast, with the subsequent meet of the hounds on the Club lawn, is one of the functions of the Ootacamund season, and draws a far larger number than go out with the hounds on any hunting day in the season.

#### THE NEW CLUB.

This is a proprietary Club started by some of the prominent residents of the station about seven years ago to fill a want that certainly existed. It combined the advantages of a Social Club with those of an Amusement Club. It was undoubtedly popular during its early career, but now-a-days one does not hear very much about it, which would seem to indicate that it has reached a stage of prosperity. To the enterprise of those who started this club, Ootacamund owes the adjoining skating rink which has been a great source of amusement and pleasure to those to whom the other places of recreation have not been open.

#### THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

This place, owned by the Proprietor of the Madras Carrying Co. for many years, did duty as the theatre of Ootacamund. But theatricals in Ootacamund have led a very fitful existence, dependent a good

deal upon the presence in the station of someone willing and able to take upon himself the duty of organising and keeping together a *corps dramatique*. It has thus happened that one year theatricals have flourished exceedingly while in the next nothing of any sort has been done. The Assembly Rooms have never in recent years been very popular, and the structural extensions and additions to the Gymkhana Pavilion will add another nail to the coffin of their reputation.

#### THE N. V. R. ARMOURY.

Attached to this institution is a Social Club which is a boon to those who have not access to the other clubs, etc., already mentioned in this Chapter. The Volunteer Corps is an old one with a fair membership ; but one wonders why it does not gather into its ranks every European on the hills where volunteering can be carried out under ideal conditions. The Corps has detachments at out-stations on the Nilgiris, but the Company at Coimbatore is numerically the strongest. The Lawrence Asylum Cadet Corps at Lovedale is effective and very smart detachment of the Nilgiri Volunteer Rifles. The Corps has two rifle ranges,

one a short one in the valley adjoining the Government Gardens, and another at Kandal near the Downs.

#### NILGIRI HORTICULTURE.

The horticultural establishment, known as the Government Botanical Garden, was first set on foot in the year 1847 during the Governorship of the Marquis of Tweeddale; and the first gardener appointed on the recommendation of Sir William Hooker and Dr. Royle, was Mr. W. G. McIvor, who eventually obtained much celebrity as the Superintendent of the Government Cinchona Plantations on the Nilgiris. In addition to laying out the gardens he gave a great deal of attention to the introduction and cultivation of apples, pears, figs, grapes, oranges, lemons, plums, citrons, etc. He also cultivated European vegetables, the seed of which appears to have been freely distributed amongst the natives of the surrounding districts; and from this liberality has arisen the plentiful supply of excellent vegetables in Ootacamund and its neighbourhood. Many plants of medicinal and economic value have been introduced since the establishment of the garden, such as ipecacuanha, jalap, digitalis, rhubarb,

cinchona, mahogany, various kinds of pines, box, cocoa, mangosteen, litchi, various kinds of trees producing rubber, camphor, etc. Most of them have been distributed to different parts of the country and many of them are now quite naturalised. Beside the garden at Ootacamund there are branch experimental gardens at Coonoor and Burliar. Sim's Park, the garden at Coonoor, will be dealt with in its proper place. The Burliar garden is situated almost at the bottom of the Coonoor Ghât, at an elevation of 1,800 above sea-level. The temperature is high, the soil rich and the average rainfall considerable. Many plants can, therefore, be grown there which will not thrive in the higher situations of Ootacamund and Coonoor. It is there that the cocoa, mangosteen and litchi fruit grow freely. Unfortunately, like all places situated within this belt of the hill tracts, it is most unhealthy and the inhabitants of the place suffer from fever of a most virulent description. All these gardens were placed, in the year 1883, under the management of Mr. M. A. Lawson, M.A., late Professor of Botany at the University of Oxford, who was made Government Botanist and Director of Government Cinchona Plantations; but in recent years the appointments



have all been separated, the Cinchona Plantations being placed under a Director, the Government Gardens under a Curator, while the Government Botanist's time is fully taken up with economic and agricultural experiments and enquiries in connection with the whole Presidency, and his headquarters have been removed to Madras. In addition to the work carried on by the Government, many private individuals have done much to advance horticulture on the Nilgiris, and among them may be mentioned the names of General Morgan, the late Mr. Griffiths of Kotagiri, the late Mr. Misquith at the Highland Farm and more recently the late Mr. J. W. Minchin, Sir Frederick Price and others. In 1886 the Nilgiri Agri-Horticultural Society was formed and since then has done much good work, the outward and visible signs of which are an excellent Show held once a year.

#### THE CINCHONA PLANTATIONS.

Dr. Royle, who was for many years Botanist to the Government, was the first who gave serious attention to the introduction of the Cinchona plant, from South America into India. In a report written in 1852 he said : " The probability of entire suc-

cess in the cultivation of the Cinchona tree in India seems to admit of hardly any doubt, if ordinary care is adopted in the selection of suitable localities. I inferred from a comparison of the soil and climate with the geographical distribution of cinchonaceous plants, that the quinine-yielding cinchona might be cultivated on the slopes of the Nilgiris and of the Southern Himalayas in the same way that I had inferred that the Chinese tea plants might be cultivated in the Northern Himalayas." Dr. Royle's recommendations, though approved, remained in abeyance until 1859, when the increasing demand for cinchona drugs combined with the constantly increasing price forced the subject again on public attention and Government determined that steps should be immediately taken to obtain plants and seeds of the different species of cinchona for transmission to India. In December 1859 an expedition under Mr. (now Sir) Clements Markham was sent to South America. After a series of adventures, often attended with much danger and great discomfort, the first consignment of plants was despatched from Guyaquil in January 1861. Four hundred and sixty-three of them arrived in Madras in good condition and were taken to the

Nilgiris. Here, for the hardier kinds, Mr. Markham selected a site on Dodabetta about 8,700 feet above sea-level; while, for the less hardy varieties, he selected a tract of country near the Toda village of Nedduvattam, on the edge of the hills facing west at an elevation of from 5,500 to 6,000 feet. The trees, on their arrival, were delivered to Mr. W. G. McIvor, and it was due to his care that the rapid and enormous increase of plants was chiefly due. There are no less than eleven kinds of cinchona plants, but the varieties chiefly grown in Southern India are *C. Officinalis* and *C. Succirubra*, and a large number of varieties which are believed to be hybrids between these two varieties and *C. Ledgeriana*. The visitor interested in cinchona will find a visit to the plantation on Dodabetta of great interest; the quinine factory, however, is at Nedduvattam, and will also repay a visit. The example of Government as pioneers in this industry has been followed by a number of planters, both on these hills and elsewhere, and in recent years the cry has been raised that Government having done its duty, should now retire from competing with private enterprise in a lucrative industry. Government, however, entered upon cinchona-planting and the manufacture of



St. Thomas Church and Lake, Ootacamund.

NICHOLAS & CO.



quinine with other motives than to demonstrate the possibility of starting a new industry in this country. Its main object was to bring this fever-allaying alkaloid within the reach of the very poorest in a country where fever accounts for more deaths than all the epidemics of cholera, small-pox, plague, etc., put together. To-day the poorest in the land can get for a pice, or a quarter-anna piece, a packet of quinine from the nearest Post Office sufficient for a couple of doses. Naturally Government declined to retire from this beneficent work ; but at a time when the price of bark fell below remunerative prices in the Home and Continental markets, Government came to the assistance of the planter by buying bark which they required in excess of what their plantations could supply from them.

#### ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Anglican Churches in Ootacamund, that of St. Stephen beautifully situated on Church Hill, approximately the very centre of the station, and the spot from which all distances are measured, and St. Thomas' Church also very beautifully situated near the Willow Bund end of the Lake.

St. Stephen's Church is one of the oldest structures in Ootacamund, having been founded in 1829 by the then Governor of Madras, Mr. Stephen Lushington. It was consecrated by the Bishop of Calcutta on the 5th December, 1830. It originally was constructed to seat about 300 persons ; but has since been enlarged by the late Mrs. McIvor, in memory of her husband, Mr. W. G. McIvor, whose name has frequently been mentioned. The Church is the chief seat of Anglican worship in the station, and the Chaplain usually officiates here. It is provided with a fine organ and the services here are always bright and popular, owing to the existence of a well-trained choir. Attached to the church is a very picturesque cemetery which has been closed, the Anglican burials now being at the newer cemetery attached to St. Thomas' Church.

St. Thomas' Church was built in 1869, the foundation stone being laid by General Howard Dawker, the consecration, by Bishop Milman, taking place in October 1870. There is no regular Chaplain attached to the church ; but during the season it is used as a Chapel of Ease to St. Stephen's, some Anglican Clergyman or Missionary at Ootacamund officiating. A prominent feature of the pretty

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cemetery is the lofty Iona cross of granite, marking the resting-place of the Rt. Hon'ble Mr. W. P. Adam, who died at Ootacamund a short while after assuming the Governorship of the Presidency.

The Roman Catholics too have a number of churches in the station, the most noticeable being that of the Blessed Virgin Mary near the Convent and the handsome new edifice behind the Assembly Rooms near the Government Gardens. The Non-conformist place of worship is the Union Chapel, a pretty little edifice recently erected on Church Hill road below the Army Headquarters. There is also a Baptist Chapel in Old Ootacamund, above Stonehouse Hill.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The chief educational institution on these hills is the Lawrence Asylum. A very full account of the circumstances leading to the establishment of this school will be found in Grigg's "Manual of the Nilgiri District." Suffice it to say here that it owes its inception to Sir Henry Lawrence, who desired to see formed on these hills an asylum for orphaned children of soldiers similar to those already (1856) existing at Mount Abu, and at Sanawar, on the



Simla hills. He also proposed to give a donation and annuity as the nucleus of a public fund to be raised for this purpose. Subscriptions were called for both in India and in England, and a large sum of money was raised both for a male and a female branch and the institutions started. Later, after much correspondence and reference to the Government of India, the Madras Male Asylum was removed to Ootacamund and incorporated with the Male Branch of the Lawrence Asylum, and then it became necessary to build the present handsome structure at Lovedale, about five miles from Ootacamund. The main buildings of the Boys' School were completed in 1871, in the September of which year the amalgamation took place. The Girls' School was not completed until a later period. Recently another amalgamation has taken place—one which was proposed many years ago—namely that of the Military Female Orphan Asylum in Madras with the Female Branch of the Lawrence Asylum. This has necessitated more building operations at Lovedale, and it is fortunate for all concerned that it was originally decided to locate the Lawrence Asylums at a spot where there is plenty of room for expansion. The

standard of instruction in either school was not high, the original intention being to educate the children up to a stage sufficient to enable them to earn their living. With this in view their literary education was supplemented by training in a number of handicrafts, etc. In recent years, however, a change has been made, under the advice of the Rev. A. W. Atkinson, the present Principal, whereby to promising lads a higher standard of literary education is imparted as being a more useful equipment to enable them to earn a living in this country than either shoe-making, carpentry or other manual handicrafts in which European cannot compete as a cheap artisan with the native. The Telegraph class in the Male Asylum, for which an Instructor has been provided by the Government, has always been successful and through this channel many hundreds of lads from this Institution have found places in the Government Telegraph Department.

The Girls' department has never been as strong as the Boys' Branch ; but it has nevertheless done much good work in the training of girls for useful careers in after life. As already said, it will be considerably augmented by accession of the Military Female Orphan Asylum. Both institutions are

under the Superintendence of a Principal, the Rev. A. W. Atkinson, whose Indian experience is great. He is a genial, scholarly Irishman with a marvellous faculty for making himself *en rapport* with boys, and the Asylum—the Boys' Branch especially—has never been in such a state of efficiency as it now is. The Asylum is managed by a Committee, and the health of the inmates is looked after by a resident Apothecary and one of the Commissioned Medical Officers in Ootacamund. A visitor who desires to see the working of this fine institution can always do so by applying to the Principal, and a good opportunity of seeing the place and its inmates at their best is to be one of the invited guests at the celebration of Founder's Day in September, when either the Governor of Madras or the head of the Madras Army presides at one of the most effective and picturesque school functions it is possible to see anywhere.

Brecks' School is an elementary school established as a memorial to Mr. Brecks, the well-known Commissioner of the Nilgiris, before they were made a regulation District of the Presidency, the funds being raised by public subscription, many of the Mahomedan residents of the station subscribing

largely. In return they were allowed to send their children to the school, which some think has militated against its success as a European Hill School. At any rate its standard of education has never been high and it has in recent years led a very hand to mouth existence. When started originally it was located in the present Sub-Court adjoining the Collector's Cutchery. The present pretty building on the Wenlock Road was subsequently erected. The school very recently was in such a state of financial embarrassment that the Trustees decided to close it. It was, however, re-opened under the orders of Government, who made themselves responsible for any deficit in the expenditure, pending a consideration of the situation. The present is a time of much activity in the educational world in India and among other matters receiving consideration is the question of European education in this country. The Government of Madras is now engaged upon a scheme of improving European education and putting European schools on a better footing, and under this scheme something might be done to make Breeks' Memorial School approximate more nearly to some of the well-known public schools on the Himalayas and

in Northern India. It has always been a matter of surprise why no such school exists in this Presidency which in the matter of education has always been ahead of the other Provinces in India. The venerable Dr. G. U. Pope, who is still alive and working at Oxford, once had a very fine public school at "Snowdon House" at which many men now in the public services received their education; but he closed it when he was appointed Warden of Bishop Cotton School at Bangalore in 1871, and since then a similar institution has never existed on these hills. Before the Snowdon institution came into existence there used to be another public school on these hills, owned by a Mr. Nash, and it was at this school that Sir Arthur Havelock, the last Governor of Madras, received his early education.

For girls the Convent provides a high and very efficient education; but for those who have a prejudice on religious grounds against sending their children to a Roman Catholic institution, there is the school of the Sisters of the Church at Shedden which takes in both boarders and day-pupils. The scale of fees charged here, however, is considerably higher than that obtaining at similar institutions elsewhere.

There are also a number of other schools recognised by the Educational Department but these mentioned above are the best-known.

#### THE NILGIRI LIBRARY.

One of the nicest and most useful institutions on these hills is the Nilgiri Library, an institution which was founded as far back as 1859 and which, well-looked after, has become, next to the Library of the Madras Literary Society, one of the most complete and best-stocked libraries in South India. It is located in a pretty little building near St. Stephen's Church, and is often used as a convenient *rendezvous* ; for every one visits the Library at least once a day to pick up the news of the world from the papers and local news and gossip at first hand. The affairs of the Library are managed by a representative Committee and the institution is open to all European residents in Ootacamund and the neighbourhood. Subscribers are divided into two classes—members and ticket-holders. The former pay an entrance donation of Rs. 10, an annual fee of Rs. 12 and Rs. 2-8 per month when resident in Ootacamund and using the Library. Ticket-holders are those who purchase tickets entitling them to use the Library : these cost Rs. 6 per month and are

renewable monthly. It will be seen that the former method of subscribing suits those who are resident on the hills or are making a prolonged stay, while the other is convenient for the summer visitor who is only up for the regulation three months or so. In recent years, the Library and its members have considerably outgrown the accommodation provided for them and a scheme is now on foot for extending, not only the building but also the scope of the institution.

#### THE MASONIC LODGE.

Freemasonry flourishes in Ootacamund ; almost every second member of the male community being a Mason of long standing and much repute, and Lodge "Faith, Hope and Charity" is one of the most popular Lodges in the Presidency. It is situated on Jail Hill near the Nilgiri Volunteers Armoury and besides a lodge room it has a fine Banqueting hall which can be hired at very moderate rates for public meetings, entertainments and dances.

#### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

No account of Ootacamund would be complete which omitted a description of St. Bartholomew's

Hospital, which is supported by voluntary contributions supplemented by grants from the Municipality and Government. The Hospital is in charge of the Medical Officer of Ootacamund who is assisted by an Assistant Surgeon and a staff of Nurses and Midwives. It has separate accommodation for Europeans and natives and is constantly being added to, the most recent addition being the McCartie Ward, erected in memory of the late Mr. C. F. McCartie, I.C.S. (retired), a most popular Collector of the District and afterwards Private Secretary to Lord Wenlock. He was killed while serving in the South African War. The annual Hospital Fête is one of the social events of the early Ootacamund season. It always brings in a handsome return, as those interesting themselves in its success are among the best known and popular members of Ootacamund Society. The institution has been the recipient of several philanthropic donations from European and native residents of the station.

The late Mr. Geo. Hamnett, C.I.E., a well-known and much respected resident of Ootacamund, who, as Chairman and latterly as a Councillor of the Municipality, did much useful work, established a dispensary in far-off native quarter at Kandal which



does much good, especially among the poor as medicine and advice are both given gratis.

#### THE MARKET.

Quite one of the recognised institutions of Ootacamund is the weekly *shandy* or market, which is attended by people who elsewhere never think of doing their own marketing. The shandy is situated near the Hobart Park, at the foot of the hill on which are the Municipal Office, Library, etc. The weekly market day is Tuesday when careful housewives lay in their week's stock of comestibles, etc. It is possible, however, by arrangement to supplement this by getting supplies of meat and vegetables during the week. It may here be mentioned that supplies are excellent and comparatively cheap, though there has in recent years been a tendency for prices to go up due to the increased population and the desire of the Municipality to enhance market rents and tolls. It follows, therefore, that the consumer has to meet every increase thus imposed. Much has been done lately to improve the market; but as long as the custom prevails of bringing up the majority of supplies from the low country, so long will the market continue to inefficiently supply the needs of the Town. The opening of

the Railway will very probably lead to a change in this antiquated method of food-supply, the drawbacks of which were very keenly felt during the recent plague epidemic.

#### BANKS.

The Bank of Madras has a Branch in Ootacamund centrally situated at the top of Telegraph Hill. It negotiates cheques, etc., on the usual terms, which may be ascertained on enquiry. Messrs. Oakes & Co. and Messrs. Spencer & Co. also combine private banking with their other business.

#### A TRADE'S LIST.

Most of the leading shops in Ootacamund are branches of the larger establishments in Madras, with the result that shopping can be done just as easily at Ootacamund as in Madras. They are all centrally situated on or around Church Hill and Charing Cross and are, therefore, within convenient distance of most of the European centres of residence. In addition to the European shops there are a large number of excellent emporiums for all kinds of goods on the Commercial Road, owned by Saits, the enterprising Borah traders of Bombay, who, for many years past, have made these hills a great trading-ground,

and members of the community now own almost all the house property in Ootacamund.

The following are the European firms in Ootacamund with the Managers' or Proprietors' names : —

Spencer & Co., Ltd.	...	Mr. G. Ramsey Short, Manager.
Oakes & Co., Ltd.	...	„ Geo. Oakes „
Wrenn, Bennett & Co.	...	„ H. Douglas Bennett „
Barton, Son & Co.	...	„ A. Peploe Marsden „
Heath & Son, Confectioners	...	„ J. W. Bailey, Proprietor.
Smith & Sons	...	„ W. E. Smith „
Misquith & Co.	...	„ W. Boesinger, Manager.
Nilgiri Pharmaceutical Co.,	„	J. Boesinger, Proprietor.
Madras Carrying Co.	...	„ H. E. Browne „
Wiele & Klein, Photographers	...	„ Willie Burke, Manager.
Reliance Auction and Commission Rooms...	„	A. T. W. Penn, Proprietor.
Ooty and Nilgiri Press...	„	P. M. Lushington, Manager.
E. Irvine, Tailor.		
H. Vogel & Co., Jewellers	„	H. Vogel, Proprietor.

The following are the European firms in Coonoor :—

Spencer & Co., Ltd.	...	Mr. Geo. Satoor, Manager.
Wingrave & Co., Chemists, etc.		
Coonoor Emporium	...	Mr. Thos. Eagan, Proprietor.
P. Boesinger, Photographer.		
Smith & Sons, Chemists.		•

## SPORT AND AMUSEMENTS.

## THE GYMKHANA CLUB.

Like all the chief hill stations in India, where a large proportion of the inhabitants are pleasure-seekers, Ootacamund is rich in means and methods for providing for the tastes of all. On account of its comprehensiveness, perhaps, first place in the category should be given to the Ootacamund Gymkhana, a body that has taken all forms of out-door and field sports under its wing. A member of the Ootacamund Gymkhana Club can, by virtue of his membership, indulge in any or all of the following sports : -- Cricket, lawn tennis, badminton, golf, boating, trap-shooting, etc. The Club house is a fine new Pavilion situated on the Elk Hill side of the Hobart Park near the Willow Bund. The old Pavilion, a pretty little structure not far away, near the entrance of the Nilgiri Brewery, served the purposes of the Club for many years. When the morass formed by the extension of the Lake beyond the Willow Bund was reclaimed, and the Hobart Park was made the finest recreation ground of its kind in India, the necessity for a larger and more commodious pavilion asserted itself. Hardly had this been provided, than it was seen that it would have to be

extended to provide a Theatre and Assembly Room to make the premises self-containing. Plans and estimates were called for and these have been accepted. The extension entails putting a second storey to the present building and in other ways enlarging it. The Gymkhana Club controls, but has not the exclusive monopoly of, the Hobart Park which is the public recreation ground of the town. A common name for it among the residents is the A. B. C. Ground, the letters standing for Archery, Badminton, and Croquet, and recalling a time when these were the fashionable amusements of the place. Croquet and Badminton are both undergoing a very popular revival; but we doubt whether any toxophilite clubs exist in India to-day. The Park as it now is, is large enough to provide separate cricket and polo grounds while the race-course that runs round it is one of the finest hill-race-courses in the country. On it are held the Ootacamund Races, one of the recognised meetings of Southern India, usually held in May; and, later in the season, the first day of the Hunt Races, a meeting held under the auspices of the Ootacamund Hunt Club. The steeplechase portion of the Hunt Races is held on the Newmarket Course on



**Race Course and Tennis Courts, Ootacamund.**

NICHOLAS & CO.



the Downs. Adjoining the Pavilion are the lawn tennis courts. Boating is carried on on the Lake, the Boathouse being at the other end. A Regatta for local oarsmens is held early in the season. On the banks of the Lake near the Boathouse, the Trap-shooting competitions are held during the season.

On the Downs to the west of the Lake are the Golf links, perhaps the most difficult course in India, play on which approximates more nearly to the conditions under which the game is played at some of the best known courses in England, than it does on the courses laid out on the *maidans* of the plains.

The Gymkhana Club is administered by Office-bearers and a Committee composed of a number of the leading European residents of the place, and all persons, members of Gymkhana and other Clubs elsewhere are eligible for membership.

#### THE OOTACAMUND HUNT.

To some enthusiasts Ootacamund exists only for the sake of the Ootacamund Hunt, perhaps the oldest body of its kind in India and one with a name and reputation that is not confined to this country; but has been carried by successive Masters and members to England and elsewhere. The



roll of Masters and those who have in their time hunted with the Ootacamund Hounds would disclose names of some well-known at some of the best hunting centres in the United Kingdom. The Honorary Secretary of the Hunt, Mr. W. E. Schmidt, one of the oldest residents on the hills and at one time a very keen member of the Hunt is a storehouse of information regarding it. Among the moving incidents recorded in its history is the memorable one when the whole pack went off after a panther. In the Downs, to the west of the town, the Hunt has an ideal hunting country, one that affords good galloping and requires at the same time sound horsemanship. If Ootacamund does not exist for the Hunt, the Downs undoubtedly do, and the Hunt is allowed almost exclusive privileges there. In recent years the hunting area has been surveyed and an excellent map prepared, which it is almost indispensable for a new-comer to possess and study until he becomes familiar with the country, the various coverts and the safe crossings over the bogs and morasses in the valleys between the knolls and eminences. The list of Masters, as we have said, disclose some famous and well-remembered names in the annals of the Hunt, none more

so than Colonel Jago, who for many years combined the offices of District Forest Officer of Ootacamund and Master of the Ootacamund Hunt. He is still alive at Home and who still takes a very real and lively interest in the Ootacamund Hunt. In recent years the Mastership of the Hounds has been divided between members of the Staff of the Governor or the Commander-in-Chief. The present Master is Capt. R. D'A. Fife, a master of experience, who has hunted the hounds with conspicuous success for the past four seasons.

#### THE NILGIRI GAME ASSOCIATION.

The Nilgiri Game and Fish Preservation Association is one of the few Associations formed in India for carrying out, not only the strict preservation of indigenous game, but the introduction of game birds, animals or fish exotic or indigenous to India. The records of the Association show several attempts in the last named objects of the Association, such as the introduction of the Himalayan pheasant, etc. The best-known efforts of the Association, however, have reference to the introduction of trout into the Nilgiri streams and rivers. Several importations of trout ova have been made from Home, and while some have proved failures, a fair proportion of others

have been hatched out, and the Pykara and other rivers stocked with the fry. It has now been ascertained, we believe, from the experience of the last twenty years, that though these trout obtain fair dimensions, the efforts of the Association to permanently introduce them have failed signally, because they will not breed. The reason, judging from similar experience gained in Ceylon, appears to be that the wrong species of trout has hitherto been imported. In Ceylon they experimented afterwards with the rainbow trout and succeeded in obtaining country-bred trout in abundance with which the fishing waters in Ceylon have been stocked. The Nilgiri Game Association, intends, we understand, to profit by the example of Ceylon, and future experiments will be confined to introducing the rainbow variety of trout, from the extensive hatcheries in Ceylon. The game procurable on these hills, and the surrounding tracts are elephant, bison, tiger, panther, bear, wild boar, sambur, ibex, jungle sheep or the muntjac, woodcock, peafowl, spur fowl, jungle fowl, etc., with hares in abundance. The tracts to visit depend entirely on the kind of game wanted. Those who seek sport regardless of health, etc., will find every kind of big

game shooting in the jungles at the foot of the hills, but in these matters the stranger who becomes a member of the Association will find it the best policy to consult that body and secure a reliable shikari. Though elephant is given in the category of game set out above, every sportsman knows that the "great earth-shaking beast" is, except under certain conditions, protected by special legislation. Ibex too, to prevent extermination, have been protected on these hills for some years and recently these rules have been relaxed to the extent of permitting license-holders under the Association to shoot a specified number each season, showing that protection has been beneficial in increasing the numbers. We give below the Rules and Regulations of the Nilgiri Game Association :—

#### THE MADRAS (NILGIRI) GAME REGULATIONS.

1. Unless with the sanction of Government, no person shall shoot at, wound or kill the females or immature males of any of the following animals within the limits of any reserved or rented forest or any fuel or fodder reserve, grazing-ground or area under special fire-protection :—

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Bison or Gaur. | (4) Ibex.             |
| (2) Sambur.        | (5) Antelope.         |
| (3) Spotted-deer.  | (6) Four-horned deer. |

2. Unless with the sanction of Government no person shall kill, wound or shoot at any mature male sambur or spotted-deer if it is hornless or if its horns are in velvet.

But any member of the Ootacamund Hunt Club may kill sambur brought to bay by the hounds whilst in the proper pursuit of hunting. This permission, however, will be subject to the control of the Collector of the Nilgiris, who will frame such precautionary measures as may be necessary.

3. No person shall kill, wound, shoot at or capture pea-hen, at any time throughout the year or the hens of jungle-fowl between the 1st of January and 16th of September of each year. No person shall take the eggs of pea-hens or of jungle-hens at any time throughout the year.

4. No person shall hunt, kill, wound or shoot at any game as defined in Madras Act II of 1879, within any of the reserved or rented forests, fuel or fodder reserves, grazing-grounds or areas under special fire-protection comprised within the aforesaid limits, until he has obtained a license from the Collector of the Nilgiris.

5. Any person may obtain from the Collector a license to shoot game on payment of a fee of Rs. 30. The Collector may refuse to grant a license if the applicant has been convicted of an offence against the rules under the Forest Act relating to hunting, shooting and fishing or against the provisions of Act II of 1879, or for

any other special reason to be stated in writing. The license shall not be transferable and shall be available only for the currency of the fasli year to which it relates, whether it be taken out at the commencement or during the currency of the year.

Against any order issued by the Collector under the preceding clause an appeal shall lie to the Board of Revenue if filed within three months of the date of the orders appealed against.

The Collector of the Nilgiris shall however have authority at his discretion, to reduce the payment for each license to Rs. 5 in the case of Non-commissioned Officers and soldiers of His Majesty's forces on proof to his satisfaction that the application for the license is for *bonâ-fide* sporting purposes.

6. The seasons during which licenses shall permit hunting or shooting of game in the reserved or rented forests or other areas specified in Rule 4 comprised within those limits shall be duly notified from time to time, by the Collector of the Nilgiris and shall be clearly endorsed on the licenses.

7. The Collector may from time to time by notification in the District Gazette, declare all or any rivers, streams or lakes closed against fishing during any year or part of a year within any part of the aforesaid scheduled area and may similarly declare the whole or any part of any reserved or rented forest, fuel or fodder reserve,

grazing-ground or area under special fire-protection within such scheduled area, closed against shooting or hunting for the whole or any part of any year. He may also prohibit within the same areas and for like periods the pursuit, killing or capture of any particular species of game and fish.

8. The poisoning of water, the dynamiting of fish, the setting of cruives or fixed engines for the capture or destruction of fish, the damming and baling of water for the capture of fish, the netting of fish with nets, the meshes of which are under  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, and the setting of traps and snares for the capture of game are absolutely forbidden anywhere within the limits of the scheduled area in which these rules are in force.

9. Any breach of the above rules within any area reserved under section 16 of Act V of 1882 will render the offender liable on conviction before a magistrate, to the punishment provided by Section 21 of the Act and any breach of the above rules in any of the above-mentioned areas, other than those reserved under section 16 of the Act, will render the offender liable on conviction before a magistrate to imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or to fine which may extend to Rs. 200 or both.

The following notifications, issued under Act II of 1879, which still remain in force, are reproduced below:—

No. 41.—It is hereby notified under section 5 of the

Nilgiri Game and Fish Preservation Act of 1879, that with the view to protect acclimatized fish which may be believed to be in the undermentioned streams and lakes within the Nilgiri District and specified in the Schedule to the said Act or which may be hereafter introduced therein, His Excellency the Governor-in-Council hereby prohibits the poisoning of the said streams and lakes and the throwing of dynamite or any other deleterious matter therein, and the use of nets of a mesh below one inch and a half:—

*Streams and Lakes.*

1. Ootacamund lake and stream issuing therefrom.
2. Marlimund Reservoir in Ootacamund.
3. Lawrence Asylum lake and stream issuing therefrom.
4. Pykara river and its confluent from their sources down to the limits.
5. Avalanche or Kundah river and its confluent.
6. The Karteri and its confluent.

No. 42.—The Governor-in-Council hereby notifies under section 5 of the Nilgiri Game and Fish Preservation Act (II of 1879, Madras) that from and after this date until further orders, the catching or killing of fish is prohibited in the Bay of the Ootacamund Lake at the foot of Awdry House. The limits within which fishing is prohibited as above will be demarcated by posts erected by the Nilgiri Game Association, one of which shall be

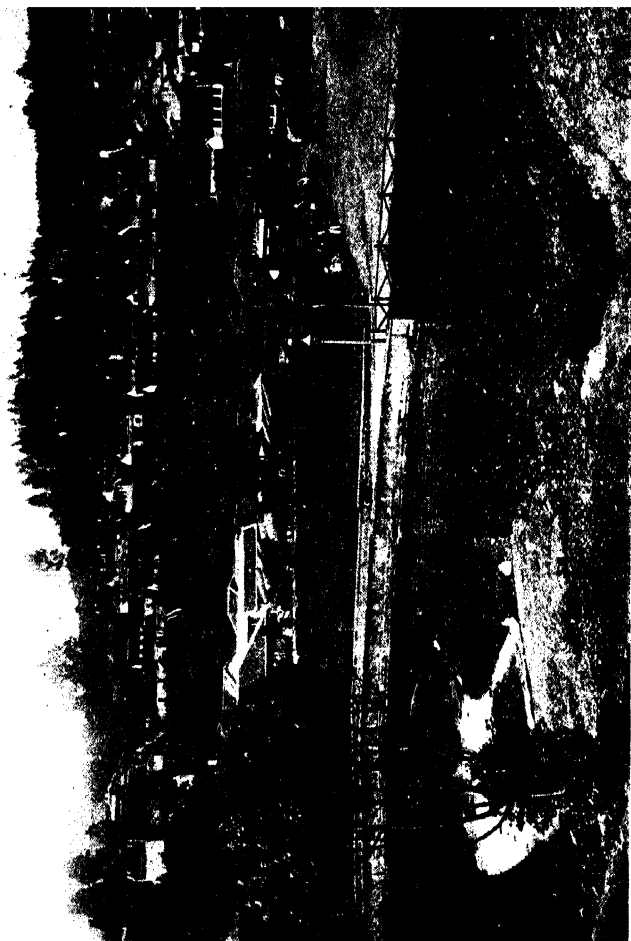


placed below St. Thomas' Church and the other below Blackwood Cottage.

No. 43.—Under the provisions of Madras Act II of 1879 (an Act to provide for the protection of game and acclimatized fish in the District of the Nilgiris in the Madras Presidency) and in supersession of the notification published at page 70, Part I, of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 8th February, 1881, His Excellency the Governor-in-Council hereby fixes the undermentioned periods as the seasons during which it shall not be lawful to shoot at, kill, capture, pursue, or sell, or attempt to kill, capture or sell large and small game, respectively, in the year 1891 and future years, *viz.* :—

Large game (including all game other than hares and feathered game).	} The 1st of June to the 31st of October inclusive.
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Small game (hares and feathered game).	} The 15th of March to the 15th of September in- clusive.
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## CHAPTER V.

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### COONNOOR.

#### A BRIEF SKETCH.

Next to Ootacamund, Coonoor is the most important of the Nilgiri Hill stations from the visitor's point of view. It is situated on the south-eastern crest of the mountains and distant about 12 miles by the tonga road from Ootacamund. Its elevation is about 5,886 feet above the sea, or about 1,530 feet less than that of Ootacamund. Its mean annual range of temperature is about eight degrees higher than that of the latter station, and, being sheltered from the South-west Monsoon by the lofty Dodabetta range, its climate during that season is peculiarly mild and agreeable, and far better suited for invalids and those in delicate health than the more rigorous climate of Ootacamund. As a set off, however, it receives, from its unprotected position, the whole force of the North-east Monsoon, when the weather is most inclement. By this time, however, most of the summer visitors have left, and it is the permanent residents who feel the inconvenience of this season, which, fortunately, does not last long.

By the end of November or the beginning of December, however, this monsoon has usually expended its force and at Christmas time the weather at Coonoor is delightful, luring visitors from the plains to spend the brief Christmas holidays there. This is the cold season and it usually lasts till the end of February. During this period the cold north-east winds are also experienced here, but they are not so trying as at Ootacamund. Owing to the milder nature of the climate of Coonoor, visitors in indifferent health or accompanied by very young children frequently break journey and stay for a brief period here before proceeding to the former station. It would be as well, however, for the invalid before proceeding to these hills to seek medical advice as to which station would be most suitable in each individual case.

In a previous part of this book all information necessary is given with regard to the best means of getting to Coonoor, which is after all the "Charing Cross" of these hills, visitors to almost every other part having to pass through it. Civic affairs in Coonoor are administered by the Municipality, the Councillors being, as in Ootacamund, for the most part, Europeans with a personal interest in

the station. One result of this is that they take a pride in keeping the station beautiful, attractive and sanitary. Not being a seat of the Madras Government, however, the town is not the recipient of such liberal gifts as the more fortunate township higher up on the hills. On the whole, however, the town is well looked after. A water-supply and drainage scheme is now in course of construction and the electrification of the Nilgiri Railway, which is being enquired into, will put infinite possibilities of improvement in the way of both Coonoor and Wellington. Coonoor, like Ootacamund, was, in 1903, visited by the plague, but the outbreak was of very brief duration and found the Municipality prepared to deal with it.

The station is very adequately provided with accommodation for visitors, there being no less than three first-class hotels and a number of boarding-houses. For visitors making a prolonged stay, a certain number of houses are available for renting, particulars regarding which may be ascertained from the regular house-agents, etc. The servant difficulty on these hills is becoming daily more acute, but, • up-to-date, the situation is not so bad in Coonoor as it is in Ootacamund, where the Government has re-

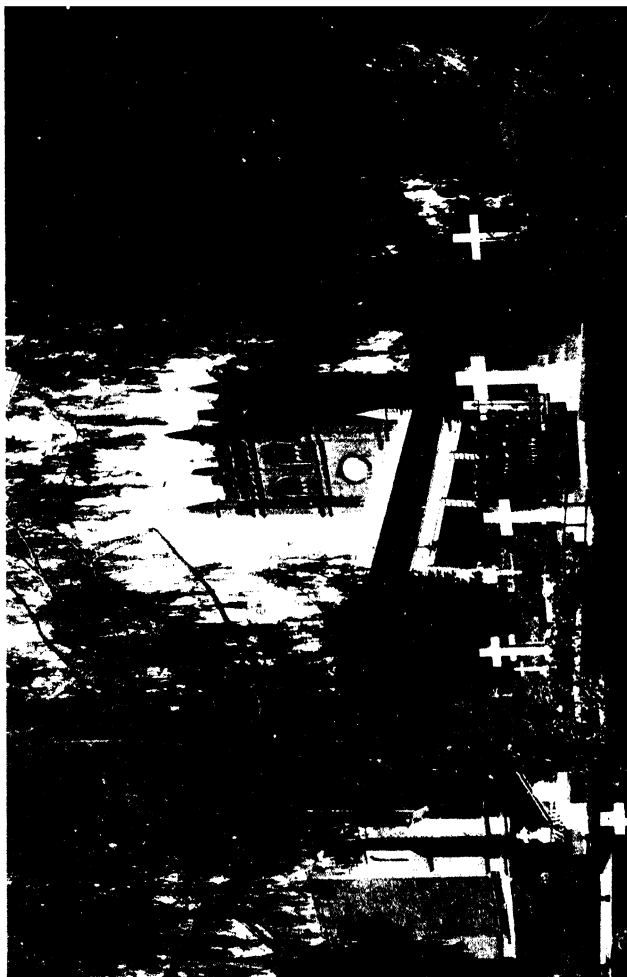
cently been invited to intervene with some measure of legislation, but has declined to do so.' It is always a difficult task to adjust by legislation the relations between employer and employed, and it is not surprising that the Government has refused to undertake the task.

Coonoor does not possess nearly as many facilities for sport and recreation as Ootacamund, and recently has suffered somewhat in popularity on this account, as a large number of visitors find it decidedly inconvenient, not to say impossible, to go into Ootacamund for what Coonoor does not provide, which after all, it will be seen from the succeeding pages is very little. A project, however, is now on foot to form golf links in the neighbourhood of Sim's Park and, if this is carried through, it will be a step towards increasing the attractiveness of Coonoor.

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

### THE COONOR CLUB.

The centre of social life in Coonoor is the Club, situated near the Library and Sim's Park. It combines the functions of a Club pure and simple with that of an Amusement Club, and the Lawn Tennis and Badminton Tournaments are all decided on its







courts. Unlike the Ootacamund Club, it is open to ladies as well as gentlemen in society and to the Military officers at Wellington and their families, and attached to it are a certain number of residential chambers for the use of single men. Membership of the club is divided into three classes—permanent, temporary and garrison—each with varying subscriptions and privileges. The club is administered by a Committee chosen from among the civil and Military residents of Coonoor and Wellington.

#### THE COONOR LIBRARY.

The Library is also an old one, having been started in 1864. Like the Ootacamund Library, it throws open its doors pretty widely and subscriptions to it are on two scales, one for residents and the other for visitors. It is well found in books, papers and periodicals and its affairs are looked after by a representative Committee. It has recently been provided with handsome new quarters, which were badly needed, at a cost of about Rs. 20,000.

#### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH.

- This is the principal Anglican place of worship in the station, and is centrally and very beautifully situated. It was built in 1851 and is seated to

accommodate a congregation of about 225. Coonoor is a Chaplaincy of the Madras Ecclesiastical Establishment and, like Ootacamund and Wellington, is a desirable cure, which incumbents are not allowed to monopolise too long, the average length of tenure being about two years.

Other places of worship are St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, the Union Prayer Hall, the Tamil Chapel, the American Mission Church and the Basel Mission Chapel.

#### THE POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

These are situated on the Mount Road within easy reach of most places in the station. The hours of business, latest hours of posting for particular localities and for the Home Mail can be ascertained on enquiry at the office. The Telegraph Office is what is termed a Second Class office, which means that it is not always open for the despatch of telegrams, the latest hour at which a message can be sent being 9 P.M.

#### THE COONOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE.

The Municipal Office is situated within the Market premises. The administration of the Municipality is supervised, as in the case of Ootacamund, by a paid

Chairman, who takes a very keen and thorough interest in the work. The Council, as has been pointed out elsewhere, is composed for the most part of European residents of the station, planters and others who have a very real interest in seeing that everything possible is done to improve the pretty little station. The Municipal income is derived from all the usual sources of taxation, in addition to the servant tax, which is also levied at Ootacamund, the reasons for which have already been referred to. Like most towns in the Presidency, Coonoor has for years been sadly in want of a good protected water-supply and drainage and both these requirements are now being attended to. When they have been provided we will hear less of occasional outbreaks of enteric, etc., which are now more frequent than is at all desirable in so deservedly popular a sanitarium.

#### THE HOSPITAL.

The Municipal Hospital and Dispensary is under the charge of the Civil Surgeon of the station. There are two well-equipped wards for Europeans, the charges in connection with which are exceedingly moderate. As in Ootacamund, so here, the Ladies'

Committee is responsible for the benevolent work of providing much-needed requirements for the hospital and in looking after the comfort of the patients.

#### SCHOOLS, ETC.

There are many schools in Coonoor to suit all religious denominations. The Roman Catholics, however, have taken the lead in this matter and St. Joseph's College and the Convent are perhaps two of the best-equipped schools in the station. The Coonoor Day School, sometimes known, after its late benevolent founder, as Stanes' High School, is also an old and well-known institution that has done much for the poorer section of the European and Eurasian community. There are a number of other schools supported by various missions, all of which receive Government and Municipal grants, proof that they are doing good work in Coonoor and the neighbourhood.

#### SIM'S PARK.

This is a Public Garden and Park beautifully laid out and well cared for. It is one of the Nilgiri Parks under the Conservator of Government Gardens and Plantations on the Nilgiris.





It owes its existence to Mr. J. D. Sim, I.C.S., a well-known member of Council, and father of the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Sim, C.I.E., of the Board of Revenue. It is a favourite place of resort with all classes in Coonoor. Very recently orders have been issued to acquire a plot of land adjacent to it for the Pasteur Institute that is about to be established on these hills for the benefit of Southern India, patients from which have hitherto had to go all the way to Kasauli in the Simla Hills. The Institute is due to the generosity of a philanthropist, a countryman of Lady Curzon, who placed a large sum of money at the disposal of the Viceroy for several useful and benevolent schemes, such as Agricultural Schools, Institutes of Preventive Medicine, etc. Portion of this grant was set aside for establishing a Pasteur Institute for South India, and as it had to be located on the hills, Coonoor was eventually chosen as the most suitable and central spot.

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## CHAPTER VI.

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### WELLINGTON AND KOTAGIRI.

Wellington is a large Military station, the headquarters of the Officer Commanding the Southern District, of a British Infantry Regiment and the chief Convalescent Depôt for British Troops in the Madras Command, so that at certain seasons of the year it is a busy military hive. It is but a short distance from Coonoor, and, for all practical purposes, the social life of the two places is the same. Wellington was originally called Jackatalla, from a Badaga village in the neighbourhood, but now-a-days, except from the natives, one seldom hears that name. The barracks are admirably situated in a sheltered spot, the site for them being chosen by the Marquis of Tweeddale in 1847. They afford accommodation for the Headquarters Wing of the British Infantry Regiment stationed here, as well as for the invalid details sent up from all British units in the Madras Command. Wellington has a delightful little Gymkhana, Club of its own, in

connection with which there is a pretty race-course, on which the Wellington Races, one of the recognised meetings of South India, are held at the end of April each year, and attract some of the best horses in training at Bangalore, Madras and elsewhere. There is also a Cricket ground inside the race-course. Some of the Boer prisoners interned in India during the recent war in South Africa, were sent to the Nilgiris, the first camp for them being established on the race-course. They were afterwards, however, removed to a camp in the Kaity Valley, where the Nilgiri Cordite Factory now is.

#### THE NILGIRI CORDITE FACTORY.

This institution is situated in the Kaity Valley between Coonoor and Ootacamund. It has been established in pursuance of the policy that seeks, in the matter of munitions of war, to make India as self-supporting as possible. India has for many years now manufactured all the gunpowder, small arms ammunition, etc., that have been required by the Army in India. And when cordite replaced gunpowder, it became necessary to establish a factory for its manufacture in this country. Certain

processes in its manufacture require a temperate climate and for this reason the factory had to be on the hills. After much enquiry and survey it was decided to locate it in the Kaity Valley, a reason largely influencing the choice being the possibility of using the Kartari Falls for generating the electricity required for motive and other work in the Factory. The work of construction was started in 1900 and rapidly pushed on, special grants being made for the purpose from the Military Budget of the Government of India, and the manufacture of cordite, etc., was properly commenced in 1904, when the Factory was opened by General Sir Edwin Elles, the Military Member of the Viceroy's Council—a remarkable instance of the speed and thoroughness with which all military work is carried out in India. As in the case of all institutions of this sort, visitors are rigidly excluded, unless provided with special permits. The following description of the factory is from an authentic source:—

From the Ootacamund Ghât Road the Factory has the appearance of a small manufacturing town. There are acres of buildings, where the various processes are to be carried on, each section protected

by earthworks, and a tall chimney or two—presumably to carry off the fumes of the acids, for steam has no part in the furnishing of the power that does the work of the Factory. The rising ground towards Coonoor is everywhere dotted with substantial houses for the European employees, while on what is practically the top of the rise stands the fine residence and offices of the Superintendent. The Factory itself is enclosed in a high wall, which is nearly three miles round, and the rest of the Factory property, which includes the houses of the officials, is surrounded by a wire fence. Roads have already been made, and there is a row of offices just outside the main gate of the Factory. Between this and the Ootacamund Road another wall is being built, with an imposing entrance gate. Immediately opposite is a Post and Telegraph Office, which was working some time before the Factory was formally opened; and, when the Ootacamund extension of the Nilgiri Railway is completed, provision will be made for a Railway siding inside the Factory walls.

A Factory which is to supply the whole of India with cordite must necessarily be a huge concern; and this is bigger even than one expects to find it.

Roughly, it extends over an area of some 500 acres, and will employ a staff, when working, of about 50 European officials and from 600 to 700 natives. These will be under the supervision of a Superintendent and a Manager, or Chief Chemist, who is responsible for the manufacture of the cordite. The latter officer also has a staff of three chemists. At the Kartari Falls a great dam was first completed and a lake formed behind it, while the pipe line for conveying the water from this lake to the turbines was then taken in hand, and with the completion of the Power Station work in the Factory commenced. The machinery for the generation and storage of the electricity, and the power transmission line, which carries the electricity from Kartari to the Factory—a distance of three miles and a-half—was early finished. Electricity is generated by means of power obtained from the Kartari Falls at the high tension of 5,000 volts, and after passing over the transmission line to the Factory is transformed into a current of 380 volts at a Transformer House, from which place it is distributed to the various Factory Houses, each of which is fitted with separate motors, etc.

The Factory is divided into six branches. First

there is the Acid Branch, where nitric and sulphuric acids are to be made ; then come the Nitro-glycerine Branch, the Gun-cotton Branch and the Cordite Branch, where the cordite itself will be manufactured. A great deal of lead work is required for the Branches working with acids, and there is a separate Plumbers' Branch. Finally, there is a Mechanical Branch, where engineering repairs, etc., are carried out. A Cartridge Factory has been sanctioned by Government. It does not make cartridges as understood by the lay mind, having nothing to do with anything but charges for big guns, which consist simply of a certain quantity of cordite tied up in a silk bag.

### KOTAGIRI.

The only station remaining to be noticed is Kotagiri, lying some twelve miles to the north-east of Coonoor and at the head of a fine pass or ravine, in which are many coffee and tea estates. It is a very small station, but it has a small season of its own, when visitors from Madras and elsewhere resort to the station for the hot weather. Like all small hill-stations, the people are very

- sociable and, for this and other reasons, the station is a favourite resort with many, who prefer it either
-

to Coonoor or Ootacamund. Its elevation is about 6,500 feet above sea-level, and its climate, though less invigorating than that of Ootacamund, is colder and more bracing than that of Coonoor. The superior character of the climate is due partly to the greater elevation, but probably also in a greater degree to the open character of the country. It is well protected from the violence of the S.-W. Monsoon, but in the early months of the year the easterly winds are more felt here than at Coonoor. Lord Dalhousie, during his Governor-Generalship, it may be remembered, visited the Nilgiris in search of health, undermined by the hard work imposed on him during a strenuous period in the history of British rule in India, and he preferred Kotagiri as a place of residence to either Ootacamund or Coonoor. His Lordship, however, was a severe sufferer from bronchial complaints and could not for that reason stand the climate of Simla ; but used during his stay on the Himalayas in the summer months to isolate himself at Chini, 120 miles from Simla on the Tibet frontier road. " Kotah Hall," one of the best of the houses in Kotagiri to-day, was the residence of Lord Dalhousie during his stay in this station.

There are no public institutions at Kotagiri ; but the increasing social life of the place in recent years has made a Club necessary. There is also a small Anglican Church, which is ministered in at interval by the Chaplain from Coonoor. During the season there is also a hotel at Kotagiri for the accommodation of visitors.



## CHAPTER VII.

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### PLACES OF INTEREST, Etc.

#### WATERFALLS.

In the vicinity of all the stations that have been described in the foregoing pages, there are a number of places of historical interest or natural beauty of scenery, etc. For one thing these hills abound in cascades which, for the most part, are easy of access from either Coonoor or Ootacamund. Those nearest the latter town are the Pykara Falls on the Pykara Road on the way to the Neddiwat-tum Quinine Factory. After leaving the road, which is good for all kinds of wheeled traffic, the Falls are reached by a rough mountain path impracticable for any but pedestrians. It is, however, not much over a mile to the bungalow. There are two falls, the Lower and the Upper, the former being the more important and interesting.

The Kulhutti Falls are near the Kulhutti Travellers' Bungalow on the Mysore side of the plateau and are reached by the Seegur Ghât Road.

The Kartari Falls have already been alluded to in connection with the Nilgiri Cordite Factory. The

Falls are but a short distance from the carriage road and used to be a favourite pic-nic spot with residents at Ootacamund. Longing eyes were always cast at it by those desirous of harnessing it and applying its water-power for utilitarian purposes. This has now been done, and the Power Works that have been erected there for the Cordite Factory should add to the interest of a visit to the Falls.

Near Coonoor there are also two cascades, one at Kolakumbay, in the great coffee district of the Nilgiris. It is accessible by a number of roads from Coonoor or Ootacamund, and is the most imposing of the waterfalls on those hills, having a clear descent of almost 400 feet.

St. Catherine's Fall, south of Kotagiri, is a favourite pic-nicking place both from Kotagiri and Coonoor. It is situated on the Kotagiri Ghât Road.

#### PEAKS AND POINTS OF VANTAGE.

Perhaps the most interesting of the hills in around Ootacamund and Coonoor is Makurti Peak, which is about 14 miles due west of Ootacamund situated in the heart of the Kundahs. It is a spot sacred to the Todas as the residence of the "doorkeeper of Heaven." It is reached by following the windings

of the Pavhk river to its confluence with the Paikara and thence the latter river to its source. From this spot an easy ascent of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles leads to the summit of the Peak, when, if the day be clear, a grand and awful side will be presented to the view. The west side of the mountain is a sheer descent of about 7,000 feet, into the low country. It is said that on a clear day with the conditions propitious, it is possible from the summit to see the Arabian Sea; but the truth of this cannot be vouched for.

Within the town of Ootacamund the hills most frequently climbed are the Peak of Dodabetta, which can be reached by the Kelso-Kotagiri Road or the Snowdon Road. To those who do not mind a stiffish climb in parts the most interesting and instructive way is through the Government Gardens and the Cinchona plantations to the Snowdon Road and thence to the saddle, whence a rough mountain path takes one to the summit from where a perfect view of the Ootacamund Valley and the Downs and Kundahs beyond is obtained. A Meteorological Observatory for these hills, has, during the past few years, been re-established on Dodabettah.

Snowdon Peak is also reached by the Snowdon Road just beyond Snowdon House, the residence of





Lord Roberts when he was Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, but now in ruins. After leaving the road, a rough path takes one to the base of the sugar-loaf summit of the Peak, whence a short scramble takes the sight-seer to the top. From here a fine view of the Mysore country can be obtained. When the old Palace of the Maharajahs of Mysore was in flames a few years ago, it was said that the fire could be seen from the top of Snowden with a pair of strong field glasses.

Elk-Hill, the eminence overlooking the station is smallest and most easily climbed of all the hills in the vicinity. From there a good bird's-eye view is obtained of the town and also of the Lovedale Valley. These three Peaks are easily "done," by devoting a morning or an afternoon to each.

The peak within reach of Coonoor is Hulikul Droog, a grand bluff overlooking Mettapolliem and the plains. A road from Coonoor leads to within three miles of the summit, which contains an old fort of Tippu Sultan, with which these hills, especially the passes leading to them, abound. Like every other fortress of this kind situated

- throughout the length and breadth of South India, a spot is shown whence Tippu was accustomed to

have prisoners or recalcitrant followers heaved into space. The unvarying monotony with which this legend occurs leads one to doubt its authenticity in every case. Other places of interest nearer the station are Lamb's Rock, about three miles from Coonoor, accessible by a good carriage road; a mile and a-half further is a spot called Lady Canning's Seat, near which is a typical Nilgiri shola, and still further is the Dolphin's Nose, so named from the peculiar shape of the projecting rock overhanging the precipice.

From Kotagiri the most interesting place to visit is Rungaswamy's Pillar, a singularly shaped isolated hill on the summit of which is Rungaswamy's temple, a spot of great sacredness with the natives. The object of worship, however, is a solitary stone, a rude hut which affords shelter to pilgrims being dignified by the name of temple. The visitor to Kotagiri from Ootacamund over the Dodabetta Saddle passes through the famous Orange Valley and Dimbatti, the former sanitarium for troops on these hills, but now deserted.

#### COFFEE ESTATES, ETC.

Other places of interest within easy reach of both Ootacamund and Coonoor are Devasholah, Melur,

Avalanche, Sispara and Kaity. Some of best known tea and coffee estates may be visited with the permission of the Proprietors or Managers, and finally for those who are interested in seeing the various stages through which beer, the British national drink, passes in process of manufacture, should pay a visit to one of the three breweries in and around Ootacamund. The Nilgiri Brewery is situated in the heart of the town near the Gymkhana, but the other two are some distance away at Arvenghaut on the Coonoor Road.

#### DRIVES AND WALKS.

The drives and walks in and around Coonoor and Ootacamund are many and very beautiful, and visitors will not be long in either station before they discover these for themselves. We will not, therefore, burden these pages with describing them in any detail. In Ootacamund one of the first excursions the new-comer makes is round the Lake, a good stretch of over four miles by road, and for one who has not got his hill legs or wind, a very good first attempt. Then there is the drive or walk to • Marlimund and by the Connemara Road round to the Downs on the other side. Finally, there is the



excursion by the Grant-Duff Road to Lovedale and beyond, returning to Ootacamund from the Fernhill side.

In Coonoor the favourite rides and drives are between Wellington and Coonoor by devious ways, in addition to those to spots outside the station, already referred to.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

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### THE HILL TRIBES.

No Guide-book to the Nilgiris would be complete without a reference to the hill tribes, who furnish questions of great interest for investigation by Ethnologists and others as regards their origin, customs and manners. It is impossible within the limits of this book to go into all the details connected with these matters, but for those interested in the subject further information will be found in Grigg's "Nilgiri Manual," Breeks' "Primitive Tribes of the Nilgiris," Dr. Baikie's "Nilgherries," Colonel Marshall's "A Phrenologist among the Todas," and more recently one of the Madras Government Museum's publications on the Ethnological and Anthropometrical characteristics of the aboriginal tribes on the Nilgiris, written by Mr. Edgar Thurston.

### THE TODAS.

- The most singular and least numerous of these tribes are the Todas, a race of herdsmen, who altogether do not number more than a thousand. They

are a singularly handsome race, tall and athletic, with Roman noses, beautiful teeth and large full expressive eyes. They never wear any covering on the head, but their jet black hair is allowed to grow and forms a bushy mass of curls all round. The dress of the men consists of a short under garment wrapped round their loins and fastened with a girdle. Over the body is thrown a sheet, worn, if illustrations are to be believed, exactly like the Roman toga of old. The women too are good looking, some of the girls being really beautiful, and they retain their comeliness much longer than do the women in the plains. They wear their hair in long curly tresses, which they wear unconfined and flowing down their backs. Their dress consists of a single sheet in which they envelope their bodies. Their dwellings are called Munds, and are generally situated on some lovely slope situated on the borders of a forest. There are two Munds situated within the Municipal limits of Ootacamund, one above the Government Gardens and the other near Sylk's Hotel. These are both inhabited, and the visitor who is interested in these strange people can get a glimpse into their method of living by paying a visit to either, if they care to run the gauntlet of



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buffaloes, which are always grazing in the neighbourhood of the Mund, and the clamorous demand for *yellam* (*backshish*) which is kept up by the women and children alike. The men, with the exception of the headman or patriarch, are seldom at home. They breed no animals, save the buffaloes already mentioned; nor do they engage in any agricultural pursuit; but wander over the hills, of which they are the aborigines, and over which they claim the "overlordship," free and unhampered. Their religion is curious and by no means unattractive. It appears to be a system of Theism, as they have no idols. They salute the sun on rising and believe that after death they will go to "The Great Country," a region the whereabouts of which they do not condescend to explain. Attached to their munds are dairies, the precincts of which are deemed sacred, and into which the women are not allowed to go. They have scattered over the hills sacred groves and to these herd of buffaloes are attached, the milk of which is exclusively devoted to the calves, and the priests of these groves are called *Pal-al* or milk-men. They are an honest, brave, inoffensive •race and contented to the verge of being indolent, and it seems absolutely impossible to get them,

to do any kind of work. An attempt was made to employ some of them as forest watchers on the hills they know and love so well, and it would appear that this occupation would have suited them admirably. The slight restrictions of service thus imposed, however, soon became irksome and the experiment was a failure. Their dwellings are very curiously-shaped structures exceedingly well thatched, but containing only one apartment, admittance to which is gained by a small door about two feet high and very narrow. Into this chamber the whole family huddle. Life, under such conditions, does not conduce to cleanliness and—as some who have written on the subject say—chastity. Cleanliness, however, has never been a prevailing characteristic of hill aborigines, and as to chastity, everything depends on the point of view from which the matter is regarded. Polygamy and polyandry are both looked askance at by the monogamous; but both are by no means unique among the marriage customs of the world and one prevails among races having high standards of living. The other is practised by the Todas, as well as by the hill tribes of the Himalayas. The brothers of a family regularly have only one wife, and the prac-

tice extends to others not related. This practice itself has an obvious tendency to restrict the growth of population, but when it is combined with female infanticide—a practice that it is thought still prevails—it is not difficult to see why the Todas do not increase.

### THE BADAGAS.

The Badagas are the most numerous and prosperous of the hill tribes and are the cultivators of these hills. They live a communal life, like the natives of the plains, and their well-constructed villages can be seen all over the hills set in the midst of cultivation. They are the most progressive of all the hill tribes, and are always willing to take advantage of the benefits of improved methods of cultivation and new crops brought to their notice by the Nilgiri Horticultural Society. In recent years the Society, at its Flower Shows, has been giving special prizes for the improvement and encouragement of barley, one of the staple crops of these hills, which is grown almost exclusively by the Badagas. The Badagas are evidently the latest comers to hills, judging by the relations that exist between them. Their settlement on the hills dates back, according to authorities, to



the fall of the Kingdom of Vijianagar, a date so memorable in the history of Southern India. They then agreed to pay to the tribes already in possession certain rates for permission to settle down and cultivate. Thus each community of them, besides a certain contribution to the Todas as lords of the soil, pays the Kotas a certain proportion of the produce and a lesser share to the Kurambars. The Kurambars, it is also said, are the residuary legatees of the Badagas and should any of these die without heirs, the property goes to the Kurambars after the funeral expenses are paid. A proof of this nominal subjection of Badagas to Todas may be seen any day in Ootacamund and its neighbourhood when two of the respective tribes meet. The Badaga invariably bows his head to allow the Toda to place his hand on it, as an outward and visible sign of the overlordship which is said to prevail.

#### THE KOTAS.

The tribe next to the Todas in length of residence on the hills is the Kotas, who have two large settlements on the hills, namely at Gudalur and at Kotagiri, the latter of which is named after them. The following is from a description recently pub-

lished in the *South Indian Observer* :—The Todas call Kotas *cow* men, as distinguished from themselves, who are *buffalo* men; but Kotas never milk the cows they keep for superstitious reasons. In stature the average Kota male is 5 feet 2½ inches and the female 4 feet 10 inches. In colour both sexes are inclined to be copper-coloured, though very black specimens are sometimes met with. The men are better looking than the women, though both are physically sturdy. The men part their hair down the middle of the head and it is then loosely tied in a knot behind. The women are extremely fond of rude ornaments, such as bracelets, armlets and necklets of seeds and wire. When the men perform their national dance, they wear a loose ill-made gown of calico with a skirt gathered very full round the waist and reaching to the ankles. This is ornamented with country red cloth sewn on in patterns, a bright coloured girdle or scarf and a handkerchief tied round the neck. Trousers of coloured cotton stuff and a turban complete the costume. Six or eight take part in the dance, and the effect of the dress, when the dancers twirl from one side to the other, is very quaint and amusing. There is no caste among Kotas and they are heredi-

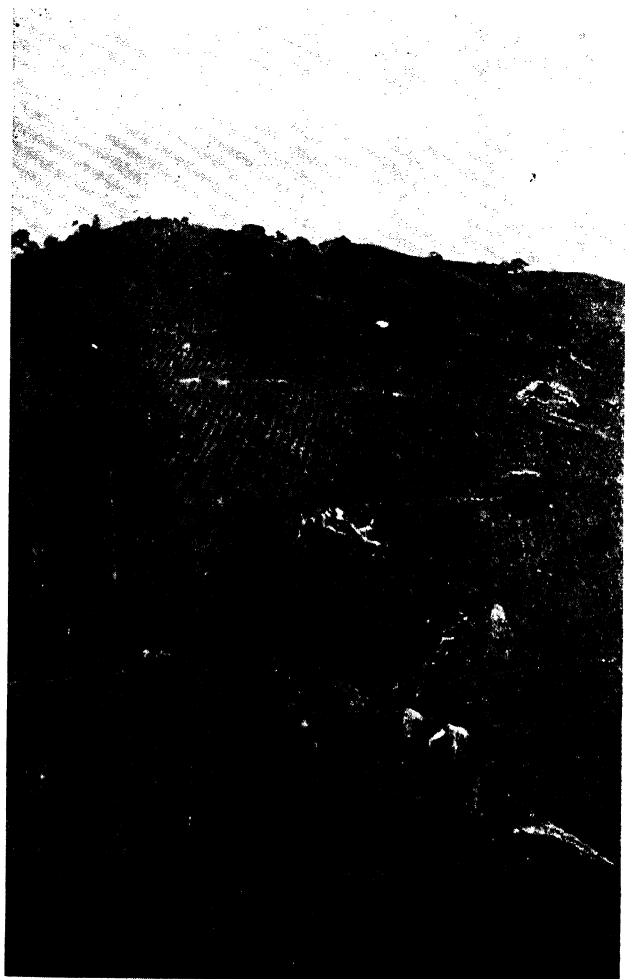
tary craftsmen, such as blacksmiths, carpenters, tanners, rope-makers, umbrella-makers, potters, musicians and gold-washers, trades as necessary to the agricultural Badaga as to the grazing Toda. The Kotas receive remuneration from the Badagas in doles of grain at harvest, and the Todas pay them with the meat of dead buffaloes and ghee. They also receive cash for their music at festivals. The cultivators among the Kotas have always paid the Todas the customary tribute in grain in recognition of their landlordship. The Todas, although they employ the Kotas largely on occasions of feasts and funerals, yet have a contempt for their filthy custom of carrion-eating, and will not allow them to enter a Mund temple. The same exclusion is practiced in the case of Badaga places of worship. Their food, however, appears to agree with them, and gives them a stronger and finer physique than that of any other of the tribes, except the Todas. Indeed the Kota thrives best during the prevalence of cattle murrain. They justify the disgusting habit by saying that they were commanded by their god, Kamataraya, to eat carrion. Kota villages are surrounded by patches of cultivation. Their temples supported by sculptured pillars. Among Kotas,

there is a festival for the dead of the year, not unlike that of the Toda dry funeral, though we hear nothing of the ceremony. Kotas are monogamists, and the numbers of the tribe have continued pretty uniform for several Censuses, being about 1,100 or 1,200 for the whole district, and their past history shows them to be non-aggressive and law-abiding. They speak a dialect of Canarese.

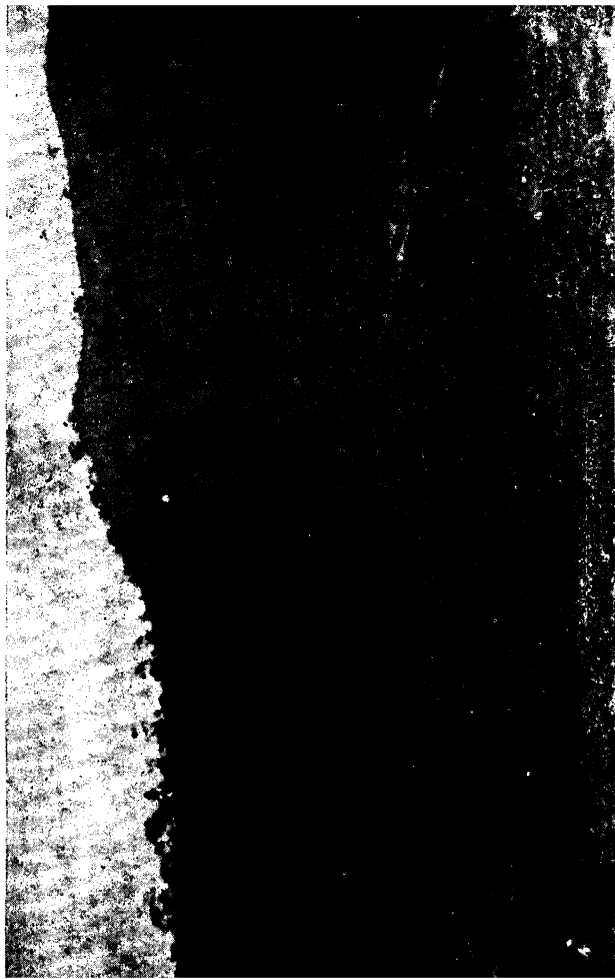
#### OTHER TRIBES.

Other tribes belonging to the hills, but with which the ordinary visitor seldom comes in contact are the Erulars and Kurambars. The former live in the forest belt at the foot of the hills, where they cultivate scattered patches of forest land and eke out a living by the sale of game, honey and other minor forest produce. They are small in stature and excessively ignorant and barbarous. The Kurambars, though resembling the Erulars in some respects are rather more intelligent. In the days of gold-mining in the Wynaad, they were very useful in the mining operations and to-day they are the hunters *par excellence* of the hills. As poachers the Game Association find them a nuisance, but if they are brought into service they make excellent shikaris, game-

watchers and trackers. They also like the Erulars, collect and sell forest produce, and a particular industry of theirs is the manufacture of benzoin (*samburani*) for which they tap a tree called *dupa*. They are the doctors and wizards of the hills. The former title they have secured from their knowledge of simple and other harmless drugs with which they dose their patients ; the latter from a supposed power they have of inflicting murrain on cattle, and this supposed power has sometimes led to individuals among them being murdered.

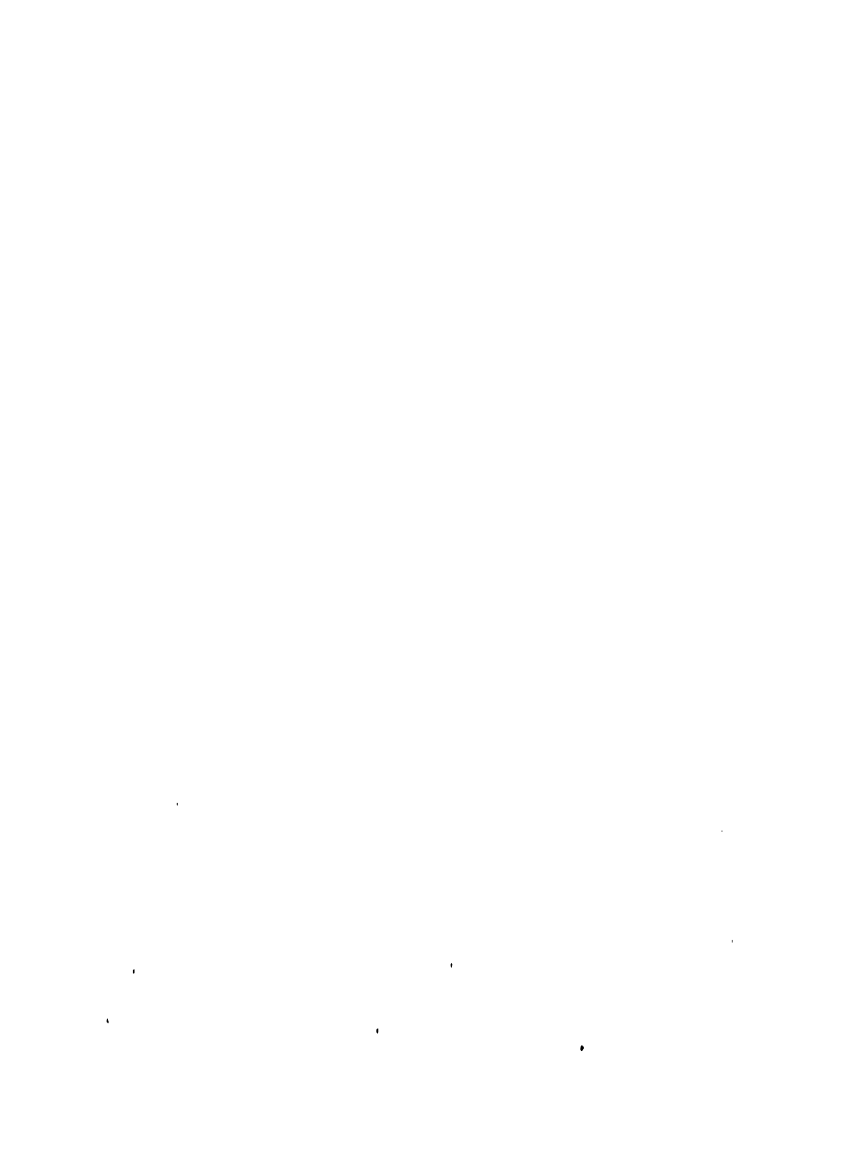






View of Tea Field. Terramia Estate.





## TERRAMIA ESTATES.

The Terramia Tea and Coffee Estates (which lie about 14 miles from both Coonoor and Ootacamund to which access is had by good driving roads from both Stations) are typical Nilgiri Estates, a short description of which may be of interest to our readers, as well as a brief outline of the Manufacture and Cultivation of Tea.

These Estates are situated in what is known as the Tudor Valley in the well-known Colacambay district, that part of the Nilgiris, where the scenery is justly celebrated for being both grand and picturesque in the extreme, including as it does, the Colacambay waterfall, which is perhaps the most beautiful on the Hills, and from the summits of any of the different surrounding slopes may be seen stretched before the Tourist, the Plains extending in the one direction to the Shevaroy Ranges, and on the other, the Animullai and adjacent Hills.

Turning again he will see the Superb and Majestic Kundahs, from nowhere can these be seen to better advantage, than from the vicinity of the Terramia Estates.

These well-known Estates are at an elevation

ranging between 5,000 and 5,750 feet above sea-level, and Tea grown at this ideal height, has all the flavour of high elevations, together with the strength of lower levels.

The Tea bushes are planted on the slopes about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart, and plucking goes on the whole year round, part of the Estate being pruned in August and part in January.

Tea is grown from seed which is carefully collected, and placed in germinating beds; when the seeds begin to split they are planted out into "Nurseries" about 5 inches apart and carefully shaded and watered till the plants are of an age to be transplanted out into the Fields, which have been cleared of all jungle, weeded, and pitted in readiness.

When the Tea is about 3 years old, the first pickings take place and great care has to be taken over this, so as not to damage the shape or spread of the young bush.

After this age it is pruned regularly every year, or as deemed necessary, and after about 7 years (in some cases even earlier, depending on climate soil, etc.), is in full bearing.

The yield per acre of Tea in full bearing varies



temperature, etc.) till it has become a bright copper colour, it is then re-rolled to give to the leaves a twist which might have opened out during the process of fermentation.

On most Estates the leaf after coming out of the roller, is passed through a sifter, and the fine separated from the coarse, these are fermented separately, and only the coarse leaf re-rolled. After fermentation both are taken to the Firing room where they are placed in a machine, and subjected to a current of hot air about 250 Far. which dries or fires the leaf till it becomes the well-known black colour.

When cool (if sifted when hot the Tea becomes greyed) the Tea is passed through a series of sieves and the Dust and fine Teas separated from the bulk which is then "cut" in the Cutter or Breaker and passed again through the sieves and graded into the various classes.

After this it is stored in bins, and before packing for Market, is generally placed again in the Firing Machine (this time at a temperature of 200 Far.) to drive off any possible moisture, and while still a little warm is packed into chests, tins or packets as required.

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The actual style of cultivation and manufacture, times of rolling, fermenting, etc., vary on different Estates, and different districts, but this is only intended to give readers who are unacquainted with the manufacture of Tea, a general idea of the processes.

Very few planters agree on all points either in cultivation or Factory methods. Some believe strongly in planting out seedlings when they are 6 to 8 months old, while others hold that they should not be taken from the Nursery till they are at least 18 months old. Another planter will tell you that plants should be put out in the dry weather, when the sap is not flowing.

Pruning also is another point in which planters disagree, and this perhaps is the most important of all Field works, and is always carefully looked after, no matter what style is adopted.

As regards Coffee this is planted from seed like Tea, but being a seed tree, is of course very differently treated as regards pruning; the Tea of course being pruned for leaf, and the Coffee for fruit, or rather the seed the fruit contains.

Mr. Leeming was the pioneer in India of a "system" which now bears his name, his system to allow the trees to grow naturally to any



height they liked, and to allow the trees more room also for lateral development.

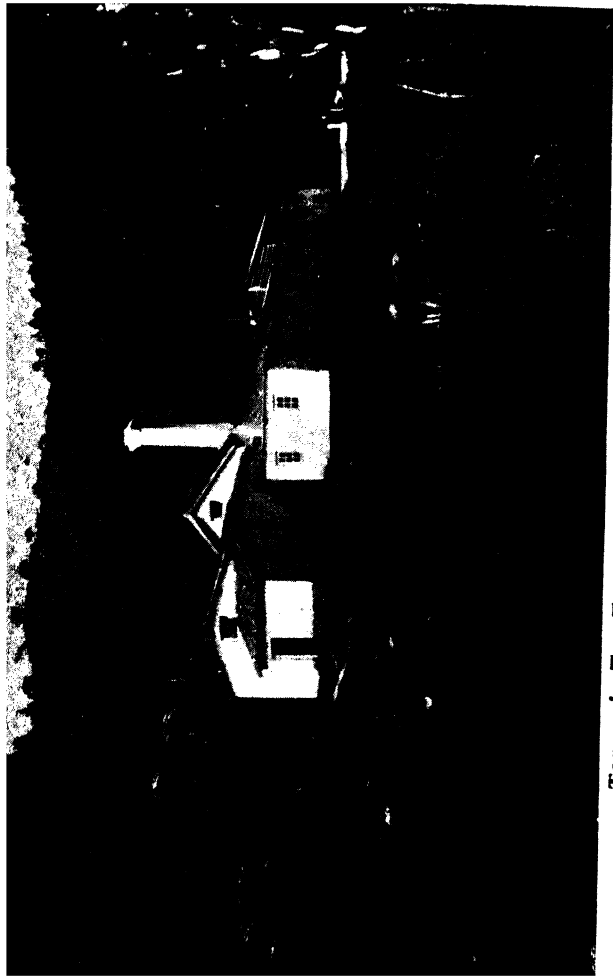
Estates were formerly planted about 6 feet apart, but Mr. Leeming found that by having his trees 8 and even 12 feet apart, that he obtained a better yield per acre at a lower expenditure, as no pruning or handling was required, these items are by no means small.

The Coffee bush as a rule gives its first, or "virgin crop" about the fourth year after it has been planted in the field.

There is perhaps no prettier sight than a healthy Coffee Estate in full bloom, especially when after a single night the planter wakes to see what has been likened, to a fall of snow, only the denser, the fall of this particular snow, the more sunny are the planters' spirits!!

It is no exaggeration to say, that at this particular time, the Coffee Planter while rejoicing in this fine show of blossom, passes through the three subsequent days, moments of anxiety hardly describable.

The rain which he prayed and hoped for only ten or twelve days previously, would, if it returned now, spell absolute ruin,—for the subsequent year at any rate.



**Terramia Tea Factory and Coffee Pulping House.**



To ensure a good setting of the bean, three perfect days' sunshine are necessary for fructification. There is diversity of opinion on this matter, some planters asserting that clear weather for twelve hours after the flower has unfurled insures its safety, at the same time those who affirm this as their belief, would rather have the condition as first stated.

The flower after three days, dries to a dark brown hue, and as it falls away a little green bead denotes the future berry, this swells gradually, and is fully developed in seven months' time—a month after that, the ripening stage commences.

When the berries assume a dark-red colour (which to the practical planter is of course a prettier sight than the fall of snow, for the latter as has been shown can be dissolved by heavy rain, while the former is safe at this stage and spells £ s. d.) then starts the busy time, namely harvesting of crop, in other words picking. All hands are put on with bags and baskets to pick. The average pick per coolie is one "box" measure (equalling about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Imperial bushels) per day. When the cherry (as the ripe Coffee bean is generally termed) has been measured into the Cherry loft or the upper storey of the Pulp house, it is let through a small aperture

into the pulping machine below, which is worked by hand or power. The Pulper has two discs, on either side of which, fluted copper sheets are fixed; the ripe cherry passing between these revolving discs is pulped, the bean leaving the skin, the latter passing away at the back of the machine, is carried away by water, while the beans are shot forward into a trough conveying them to fermenting vats. The beans remain in these vats till the glutinous substance ferments, and can be easily washed off; the light beans floating in this process are then skimmed off in baskets, while the good solid ones are thoroughly washed and dried on Barbacues or drying tables.

When quite dry, the Coffee in its white parchment skin, is sent to the Curers on the Coast who dry it to the consistency of bone, putting it through Peelers, sorting to different sizes or classes, and finally shipping to be sold in the London or other markets.

Alas! with over-production of Coffee is Brazil, and pests and diseases which affect the Coffee bush in India; the planter's lot (which otherwise he would not change for the lot of any potentate) is no sinecure; but, in spite of it all, no more sanguine

creature can be met with, his watchword with each successive mishap to his crops is "Next Year!" Thus he ekes out a living, "Hope" his anchor, in anticipation of that long looked-for shortage in Brazils yield, and antidotes to all ills on this side of the Coffee world.

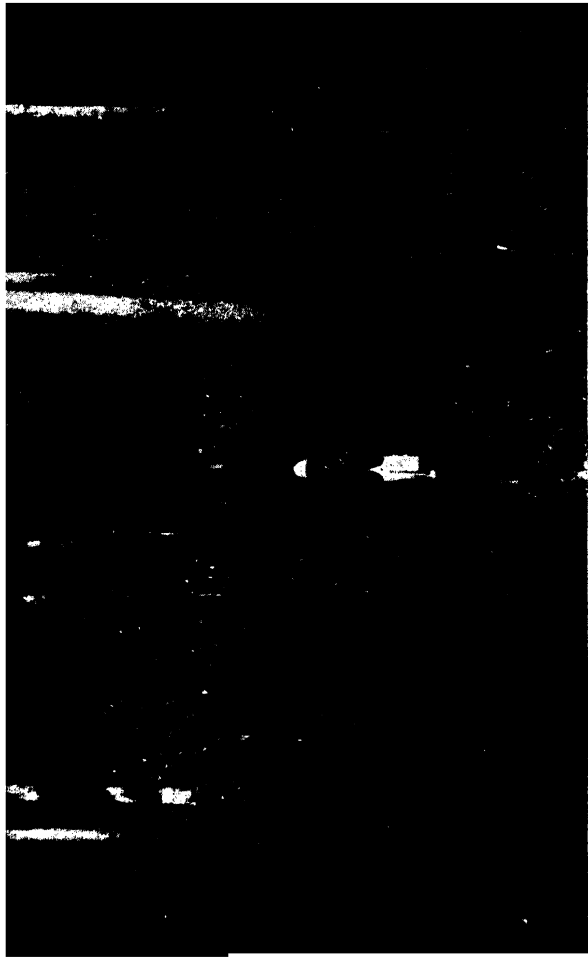
For anyone who likes an out-door life, a planter's lot on these Hills can hardly be beaten (when everything goes well with his crops). His day usually starts at 7 or 7-30 with "Roll Call" of the coolies, sending them out in proper gangs for the various works. He then goes round the various fields to see that his orders are being properly carried out, and usually remains out till 12 and then on a Tea Estate goes to the Factory to weigh the morning's leaf. After seeing this, and the leaf properly spread on the racks, he goes back to his Bungalow for breakfast, after a short rest goes out again to see that the weeding, etc., measured and that the tasks have been properly done, then to the Factory or Store to weigh the leaf, or in the Coffee season, the cherry.

If he has not had time during the day to attend to office work he now attends to this, and then back to his Bungalow to enjoy a well-earned rest.

Sport, as a rule, enters in greatly to a planter's life, and if he takes out a licence (*vide* Game Laws) he can enjoy both small and big game shooting. In the interests of Sport, the planter has allowed the depredations by Game to cost him a pretty penny, and the Sambhur perhaps is the worst offender; invariably delighting in the destruction of Shade Trees, which now are necessary for the cultivation of Coffee and the planter has yet to discover a suitable shade which the Sambhur will not mutilate!!!

Messrs. T. Stanes & Co., of Coimbatore and Coonoor, are the wholesale and retail agents for Terramia Teas which have gained three Gold and one Silver Medals for excellence, a postcard either to this Firm, or to the Manager, Terramia Estate, will receive prompt attention.

An excellent series of photographs illustrate different views on these Estates. These views as picture postcards can be obtained from Messrs. Higginbotham & Co., Madras.



**A Field of Coffee under Shade, Terramia Estate.**





## APPENDIX.

### **The Rules of the Nilgiri Game and Fish Preservation Association as amended at the General Meeting held on 23rd August, 1893.**

1. The name of the Association shall be "The Nilgiri Game and Fish Preservation Association."

2. The objects of the Association are the preservation of the existing indigenous game and the introduction of game birds and animals and fish, either exotic or indigenous to India.

3. Any person taking out a license under the Game Act shall be eligible for membership.

4. Any licensee desirous of becoming a special member of the Association, shall submit a written request to the Honorary Secretary to that effect, and, if elected a member, an entrance fee of Rs. 5 must be remitted to the Honorary Secretary. Such special membership shall continue only so long as the member continues to take out a license from year to year, always providing that absence from the district during a season shall not terminate such special membership. Any other person shall be eligible for ordinary membership on payment of Rs. 5 and election, but shall have no vote.

5. An Annual General Meeting shall be held on the 15th July each year or such date subsequent thereto as

may be fixed by the President, when the Committee shall submit an Annual Report of their proceedings with a statement of accounts.

6. A Special General Meeting shall be held at any time on the application of 10 members of the Association to the Honorary Secretary, provided 14 days' clear notice of such meeting has been given in writing to the Honorary Secretary and that the notice specifies the subject to be discussed at such special meeting.

7. The control of the funds and the entire management of the Association shall be under a Committee comprised of the President and not less than 12 members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

8. The Collector, by virtue of his appointment, shall be *ex-officio* President.

9. The Committee shall elect its own Honorary Secretary.

10. The Committee shall meet once a quarter or oftener, if necessary. Four members of the Committee shall form a quorum and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

11. The accounts of the Association shall be audited yearly by two members of the Committee and the Honorary Secretary.

It shall be competent for the Committee to form By-laws to be in force till the following Annual General Meeting.

## MADRAS ACT No. II OF 1879.

*An Act to provide for the protection of Game and Acclimatised Fish in the District of the Nilgiris in the Madras Presidency.*

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the protection of wild animals and birds used for food and of acclimatised fish, and to prohibit the killing, capturing and selling game and acclimatised fish in the district known as the Nilgiris, as described in the Schedule hereto appended, under certain conditions. It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. This Act may be called “the Nilgiris Game and Fish Preservation Act, 1879 ;” and it shall come into operation in the district aforesaid, or such parts thereof, and from such dates as the Governor in Council may from time to time declare by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

2. In this Act the word “game” shall include bison, sambhur, ibex, jungle-sheep, deer of all descriptions, hares, jungle-fowl, pea-fowl, partridge, quail, spur-fowl, snipe and woodcock, Nilgiri wood pigeon and the imperial pigeon or such birds or animals as the Governor

Title and local extent.

Interpretation-  
clause—“Game.”

in Council may deem fit to specify by notification from time to time in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

8. The Governor in Council may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, from time to time, fix a season or seasons of the year during which it shall not be lawful for any person to shoot at, kill, capture, pursue or sell, or attempt to kill, capture or sell game, as may be specified in such notification within the district aforesaid.

Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall preclude proprietors or occupiers of land from adopting such measures on such land as may be necessary for the protection of crops or produce growing thereon

4. Whenever any animal, bird or fish, useful for food not indigenous to the district aforesaid, is introduced into it with the approval of the Government with a view to becoming acclimatised or being propagated therein, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, to prohibit altogether or to regulate in such manner and for such period not exceeding three years as may be declared in such notification, the pursuit, killing or capture of such animal, bird, or fish.

5. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, by

Power to prescribe rule for the regulation and control of fishing.

notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, from time to time to make rules for the regulation and control of fishing in any stream or lake within the said district ; and such rules may, with the view to protect acclimatised fish which may be believed to be there, or may be hereafter introduced therein prohibit or regulate the poisoning of the waters of any stream or lake, the throwing of any deleterious matter therein, the use of fixed engines for the capture of fish in any stream and the use of nets of a mesh below a certain size to be defined in such rules for the capture of fish in such stream or lake.

6. Any Government officer or servant or policeman producing his certificate of office, or wearing the prescribed distinctive dress or badge of his department, may require any person whom he finds committing any offence against Sections 3, 4 or 5 of this Act, to give his name and address, or if there is reason to doubt the accuracy of the name and address so given, to accompany him to the nearest police station.

7. Every person convicted before a magistrate of any offence against Sections 3, 4 or 5 of this Act shall be liable for a first offence to a penalty not exceeding rupees fifty and to the forfeiture to

Penalties for shooting, &c., during close seasons and for breach of fishing rules.

Government, at the discretion of the Magistrate, of the game, birds or fishes taken, and of all guns, engines, implements, nets and dogs used in or for the purpose of aiding the commission of such offence, and, in default of payment of fine to simple imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month, and for every second and subsequent offence, to a penalty not exceeding rupees one hundred, and the same liability to forfeiture, and in default of payment, to simple imprisonment for a period not exceeding two months.

8. The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure relating to the summoning and examination of persons accused and witnesses, and to the levying of penalties shall be applied to proceedings under this Act.

9. All fees, fines and forfeitures realised under this Act shall be paid into the public treasury.

But it shall be competent to the convicting Magistrate to award such portion of the fine, or of the proceeds of the forfeiture as he may think fit, not exceeding one-half the amount of full fine authorised to be imposed by this Act, in any case under this Act, to the person or persons on whose information the conviction is obtained.

## MADRAS ACT No. II OF 1879.

## SCHEDULE REFERRED TO IN THE PREAMBLE.

The Nilgiri District shall, for the purpose of this Act, be held to be bounded by—

The north bank of the Bhavani River from Attipadi in Attipadi Valley to the junction of the Moyar River.

The west and south banks of the Moyar River from its junction with the Bhavani to the point in the Mudumullah District nearest to Gudalur.

A line carried thence to the head of the Pandi River (Ouchterlony Valley).

The east bank of the Pandi River to where it falls near the Karkur Pass in Malabar Payenghaut.

A line along the south crest of the Ouchterlony Valley and across the western slopes of the Nilgiri and Mukurti Peaks and Sispara Ranges to Wallaghaut.

A line thence along the west crest of the Silent Valley (Malabar) Range.

*N.B.*—The district shall include the entire tract known as the Silent Valley.

\* A line from the south end of the above named range to the Bhavani River at Attipadi in the Valley of the same name.



## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

## NOTIFICATIONS.

*Fort St. George, January 10, 1894.*

At page 1117 of Part I of the *Fort Saint George Gazette*, dated 21st December 1886.

No. 214, dated 30th July 1889.

" 99 " 9th Mar. 1891.

" 418 " 22nd Sept. "

" 487 " 27th Oct. "

" 16 " 9th Jan. 1892.

" 405 " 1st July 1893.

*Vide note on page 675, Fort Saint George Gazette*, dated 5th June 1894, Part I.

Page 1277 of Part I of the *Fort Saint George Gazette*, dated 12th November 1895.

Page 1044 of Part I of the *Fort Saint George Gazette*, dated 17th August 1897.

Page 679 of Part I of the *Fort Saint George Gazette*, dated 15th May 1900.

Page 1992 of Part I of the *Fort Saint George Gazette*, dated 26th November 1901.

No. 40.—In supersession of the notifications quoted in the margin, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased under Sections 21 and 26 (f) of the Madras Forest Act, to make the following rules for the regulation of fishing anywhere within the following limits:—

- (1) The south bank of the Bhavani River ; from Attipadi, in the valley of that name, to its junction with the Moyar River ;
- (2) from that point the north bank of the Moyar River as far as the boundary of the Nilgiri District, and thence the boundary of the said

District as determined for ordinary administrative purposes to the Nilgiri Peak ;

- (3) from that point the western crest of the Nilgiri Hills to its termination below Sispara ;
- (4) thence along the northern, western and southern crest of the Silent Valley range to its southernmost point ;
- (5) from that point to Attipadi ;  
and of hunting and shooting in all the reserved and rented forests, fuel and fodder reserves, grazing-grounds and areas under special fire-protection within the said limits.

### *Rules.*

1. Unless with the sanction of Government no person shall shoot at, wound or kill the females or immature males of any of the following animals within the limits of any reserved or rented forest or any fuel or fodder reserve grazing-ground or area under special fire-protection :—

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| (1) Bison or Gaur. | (4) Ibex.     |
| (2) Sambur.        | (5) Antelope. |
| (3) Spotted-deer.  |               |

2. Unless with the sanction of Government no person shall kill, wound or shoot at any mature male sambur or spotted-deer if it is hornless or if its horns are in velvet.

But any member of the Ootacamund Hunt Club may kill sambur brought to bay by the hounds whilst in the

proper pursuit of hunting. This permission, however, will be subject to the control of the Collector of the Nilgiris, who will frame such precautionary measures as may be necessary.

3. No person shall kill, wound, shoot at or capture pea-hens, at any time throughout the year or the hens of jungle-fowl between the 1st of January and 16th of September of each year. No person shall take the eggs of pea-hens or of jungle-hens at any time throughout the year.

4. No person shall hunt, kill, wound or shoot at any game as defined in Madras Act II of 1879, within any of the reserved or rented forests, fuel or fodder reserves, grazing-grounds or areas under special fire-protection comprised within the aforesaid limits, until he has obtained a license from the Collector of the Nilgiris.

5. Any person may obtain from the Collector a license to shoot game on payment of a fee of Rs. 30. The Collector may refuse to grant a license if the applicant has been convicted of an offence against the rules under the Forest Act relating to hunting, shooting and fishing or against the provisions of Act II of 1879, or for any other special reason to be stated in writing. The license shall not be transferable and shall be available only for the currency of the fasli year to which it relates whether it be taken out at the commencement or during the currency of the year.

Against any order issued by the Collector under the preceding clause an appeal shall lie to the Board of Revenue if filed within three months of the date of the orders appealed against.

The Collector of the Nilgiris shall however have authority, at his discretion, to reduce the payment for each license to Rs. 5 in the case of non-commissioned officers and soldiers of His Majesty's forces on proof to his satisfaction that the application for the license is for *bonâ-fide* sporting purposes.

6. The seasons during which licenses shall permit hunting or shooting of game in the reserved or rented forests or other areas specified in Rule 4 comprised within those limits shall be duly notified from time to time, by the Collector of the Nilgiris and shall be clearly endorsed on the licenses.

7. The Collector may from time to time by notification in the District Gazette, declare all or any rivers, streams or lakes closed against fishing during any year or part of a year within any part of the aforesaid scheduled area and may similarly declare the whole or any part of any reserved or rented forest, fuel or fodder reserve, grazing-ground or area under special fire-protection within such scheduled area, closed against shooting or hunting for the whole or any part of any year. He may also prohibit within the same areas and for like periods the pursuit, killing or capture of any particular species of game and fish.

8. The poisoning of water, the dynamiting of fish, the setting of cruives or fixed engines for the capture or destruction of fish, the damming and baling of water for the capture of fish, the netting of fish with nets, the meshes of which are under  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, and the setting of traps and snares for the capture of game are absolutely forbidden anywhere within the limits of the scheduled area in which these rules are in force.

9. Any breach of the above rules within any area reserved under Section 16 of Act V of 1882 will render the offender liable on conviction before a magistrate, to the punishment provided by Section 21 of the Act and any breach of the above rules in any of the abovementioned areas, other than those reserved under Section 16 of the Act, will render the offender liable on conviction before a magistrate to imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or to fine which may extend to Rs. 200 or both.

The following notifications, issued under Act II of 1879, which still remain in force, are reproduced below :—

No. 41.—It is hereby notified under Section 5 of the Nilgiri Game and Fish Preservation Act of 1879, that with the view to protect acclimatized fish which may be believed to be in the undermentioned streams and lakes within the Nilgiri District and specified in the

*Fort Saint George  
Gazette, 25th November  
1884, page 28.*

Schedule to the said Act or which may be hereafter introduced therein, His Excellency the Governor in Council hereby prohibits the poisoning of the said streams and lakes and the throwing of dynamite or any other deleterious matter therein, and the use of nets of a mesh below one inch and a half:—

*Streams and Lakes.*

1. Ootacamund lake and stream issuing therefrom.
2. Marlimund Reservoir in Ootacamund.
3. Lawrence Asylum lake and stream issuing therefrom.
4. Pykara river and its confluent from their sources down to the limits.
5. Avalanche or Kundah river and its confluent.
6. The Karteri and its confluent.

No. 42.—The Governor in Council hereby notifies under Section 5 of the Nilgiri Game and Fish Preservation (Act II of 1879, Madras) that from and after this date until further orders, the catching or killing of fish is prohibited in the Bay of the Ootacamund Lake at the foot of Awdry House. The limits within which fishing is prohibited as above will be demarcated by posts erected by the Nilgiri Game Association, one of which shall be placed below St. Thomas' Church and the other below Blackwood Cottage.

*Fort St. George  
Gazette, 2nd November  
1886, page 960.*

No. 43.—Under the provisions of Madras Act II of

*Fort St. George  
Gazette, October 1890,  
page 825.*

1879 (an Act to provide for the protection of game and acclimatized fish in the District of the Nilgiris in the Madras Presidency) and in supersession of the notification published at page 70, Part I, of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 8th February 1881, His Excellency the Governor in Council hereby fixes the undermentioned periods as the seasons during which it shall not be lawful to shoot at, kill, capture, pursue, or sell, or attempt to kill, capture or sell large and small game, respectively, in the year 1891 and future years, viz.:—

Large game (including all game other than hares and feathered game).	}	The 1st of June to the 31st of October inclusive.
Small game (hares and feathered game).		
	}	The 15th of March to the 15th of September inclusive.

C. A. GALTON,

*Secretary to Government.*

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